PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

07-08

ANNUAL REPORT

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

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This annual report is also available in electronic format from the ministry's website at **www.environment.gov.sk.ca**

Letters of Transmittal

July 2008

His Honour the Honourable Dr. Gordon L. Barnhart, S.O.M., Ph.D.
Lieutenant Governor
Province of Saskatchewan

May It Please Your Honour:

I respectfully submit the Annual Report of the Ministry of Environment for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2008.

Since the election in November 2007, this government has been building on its values of growth, security, and promises. During this time, government has been deliberating on how to strategically invest in Saskatchewan to ensure the momentum translates into long-term, sustained economic prosperity, and to make certain that the benefits of the growing economy are felt by everyone who calls Saskatchewan home.

We are committed to accountability and to ensuring that we deliver on our commitments. A significant number of commitments have already been made to Saskatchewan people in 2007-08 in the election platform, the Speech from the Throne and in the public Minister's Mandate letters. This report will provide progress on those commitments as they relate to drinking water and source water protection activities of involved Ministries and Agencies as of March 31, 2008. We look forward to furthering our commitment to improved accountability as 2008-09 progresses.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Heppner
Minister of Environment

July 2008

The Honourable Nancy Heppner
Minister of Environment

Dear Madam:

I respectfully submit the Annual Report of the Ministry of Environment for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2008.

The quality of the environment, the strength of the economy and the health of Saskatchewan people are dependent on each other. The Ministry of Environment works to protect and manage our province's natural environment and its contribution to the standard of living and quality of life of Saskatchewan's residents.

The 2007-08 annual report describes the ministry's progress in delivering on key commitments made since the election of the new government in November 2007. Significant efforts have been made to or are underway to meet the province's greenhouse gas emissions targets, to help Saskatchewan people and communities Go Green, to protect and conserve our natural resources and to ensure Saskatchewan communities have access to safe, clean water.

In addition, the transfer of responsibility for the provincial parks program from the Ministry of Environment to the Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport was a success, with no negative impact on visitors' enjoyment of our parks system. The two ministries will continue to work together to ensure the delivery of this important program.

In closing, I want to recognize and extend my appreciation to the many stakeholders and members of the public who support the work of the ministry throughout the province and to ministry staff for their continued professionalism and dedication.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Quarshie
Deputy Minister

Introduction

Saskatchewan is blessed with an abundance of natural resources and a clean and healthy environment. Still, there are increasing pressures on our environment from the cumulative impact of human actions. Our province's current and long-term prosperity depends on the proper protection, development and management of our environment and natural resources.

Since the election of a new government in November 2007, government undertook a reorganization that has specifically affected this ministry. This report is being prepared at a time of transition to a new government's agenda and will provide reporting on key public commitments made during 2007-08 with a greater focus on commitments made by the new government since November 2007.

Ministry Overview

Mandate

The Ministry works with Saskatchewan stakeholders to protect our water, air and natural resources to achieve a high environmental standard and to support sustainable development in the usage of these resources. The Ministry guides government efforts to help Saskatchewan people and communities Go Green and to meet provincial greenhouse gas emissions.

Ministry Organization

There have been two organizational changes to note in 2007-08. In July of 2007, the delivery of all human resource management services across government was moved to the Public Service Commission. Also, the mandate for Saskatchewan's provincial parks shifted from the Ministry of Environment to the Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport in November, 2007 and management responsibilities, staff and budget allocations for this mandate have been the responsibility of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport since that time.

The Ministry's operations can be divided into the following key lines of business:

Environmental Protection delivers environmental protection programs by developing standards and legislation, regulation and inspection of operations, maintaining environmental information systems and evaluation programs related to air quality, water and wastewater, waste management, industrial operations, mining and milling operations, storage of hazardous substances, spill control and contaminated sites. It reports to the public on the state of provincial water and wastewater facilities. It also provides financial support to the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority (mandated to manage and protect water quality) and the Beverage Container Collection and Recycling System.

Forest Service develops and administers policies and programs to deliver an ecosystem-based approach to managing provincial forests. It allocates forest resources to promote sustainable forest industry development, monitors forest health and administers forest inventory and renewal programs. It also provides corporate geomatics services. The gross area of the provincial forests is 33,902,689 hectares. The gross area of the commercial forest zone within the provincial forests is 12,706,244 hectares. .

Fire Management and Forest Protection plans and delivers risk-based forest fire management activities, including detection, preparedness, and suppression. It conducts public wildfire awareness, wildfire risks mitigation activities and wildland fire educational programs. It also maintains an aerial firefighting fleet, a radio communications network and meteorological services, and provides for recoverable costs incurred while assisting other jurisdictions with fire suppression. In 2007, there were a total of 370 fires with 212,913 hectares burned compared to a ten-year average of 435,368 hectares.

Land develops and administers policies and programs for the management of Crown resource land to maintain a healthy eco-system in balance with land use. It issues permits and leases for petroleum and mineral exploration and development, wild rice production, building cabins, operating outfitting camps and peat harvesting. It implements integrated land use plans on Crown lands and responds to Treaty Land Entitlement and specific land claims involving Crown land. Currently, 7.3 million hectares of Crown land are managed through six approved integrated land use plans and additional land use plans are being developed for 7million hectares of Crown land.

Compliance and Field Services develops and delivers province-wide compliance and field enforcement programs, based on the Ministry's compliance strategy and risk assessment, which support the protection

of the environment and management of natural resources utilization. The surface area of the province is 652,287 km^2 with a current deployment of 140 uniformed officers which equates to provincial coverage of 4,569 km^2/officer. Approximately 75,000 hunters, trappers, outfitters and Aboriginal resource users are impacted by the work of Compliance and Field Services. It maintains a hazardous spill emergency response unit and an enforcement call centre. It also provides compliance and field services in provincial parks to the Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport on a cost-recovery basis.

Corporate Policy and Planning provides leadership and direction for the development of strategic policy, risk assessment and integrated environmental monitoring. It develops and coordinates Aboriginal resource management programming. It manages the government's environmental impact assessment process to ensure development proposals are planned in an environmentally responsible manner and that the public has an opportunity to express its concerns. In the calendar year 2007 a total of 240 projects were subjected to the environmental assessment review process. It also leads the development of the provincial Go Green Plan efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and delivers initiatives in support of a government-wide improved environmental management in the province.

Fish, Wildlife and Biodiversity provides programs to ensure sustainable fish and wildlife populations, biological diversity and healthy ecosystems remain available for the recreational, social and economic benefit of Saskatchewan people. The Fish and Wildlife Development Fund receives a portion of the revenue from the hunting, trapping, and angling licenses sold in the province to secure ecologically important fish and wildlife habitat, and promote resource education and endangered species programming. In 2007-08 this amounted to a transfer of $3.9 million.

Central Management and Services provides direction and centrally-managed services in the areas of finance, information management, communications, planning and program evaluation, and other operational services, including accommodations required for the delivery of the Ministry's mandate. It also provides central services to the Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport for shared service on a cost-recovery basis.

An organizational chart for the Ministry of Environment is attached in Appendix A.

Key Programs and Services

The Ministry works to fulfill its mandate by promoting stewardship of the air, land, water, and wild plants and animals throughout the province. Key responsibilities in relation to natural resources include forest management, wildland fire management, Crown land, and fish and wildlife management. The Ministry of Environment also has management responsibilities to prevent pollution of provincial air, water and land, which it delivers through activities such as environmental assessment, air quality monitoring, water quality management and control of contaminated sites, hazardous goods, landfills and other similar sources of pollution.

The Ministry of Environment recognizes that effective environmental stewardship requires shared responsibility for the decisions made and actions needed among stakeholders and the public. The Ministry of Environment uses processes of co-management, partnership, public involvement, communications and education to build understanding among individuals and organizations of environmental challenges and to ensure that economic, social and environmental concerns are analyzed to inform decisions.

Some of the legislation administered by the Ministry of Environment is comprised of: The Environmental Assessment Act; The Environmental Management and Protection Act; The Forest Resources Management Act; The Prairie and Forest Fires Act; The Wildlife Act; The Fisheries Act (Saskatchewan), 1994; and The Provincial Lands Act. A complete list of legislation can be found in Appendix B. With the shift of the mandate for Saskatchewan's provincial parks from the Ministry of Environment to the Ministry

of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport, the ministerial responsibility for the administration of the following acts also shifted: The Grasslands National Park Act; The Parks Act; and The Regional Parks Act, 1979.

The Ministry maintained 52 field offices strategically located in communities throughout the province and delivered a broad range of programs with 1,038.0 Full-Time Equivalent positions for the 2007-08 fiscal year.

Minister's Mandate

In November 2007 the new Minister of Environment was given a mandate to accomplish progress over four years in the following areas:

- Work with industry and the province's Crown Corporations to meet the province's greenhouse gas emission reduction target to:
    - Stabilize greenhouse gas emissions by 2010;
    - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 32 per cent from current levels by 2020; and
    - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80 per cent from current levels by 2050.

- Guide our Government's efforts to help Saskatchewan people and communities Go Green, including support for:
    - Programs underway through the Municipal Energy Efficiency Initiative, including energy efficient lighting and heating programs, assistance for energy efficiency in rinks and solar water heating;
    - The Petroleum Technology Research Centre and International Test Centre for CO2 Capture at the University of Regina;
    - Environmental awareness and sustainable community initiatives, including local recycling programs;
    - Research, development and the commercialization of environmental innovation through Innovation Saskatchewan; and
    - Energy conservation initiatives, including:
        - Low-interest loans to customers who install Energy Star qualified furnaces and boilers
        - Rebating the PST for purchases of Energy Star qualified appliances and heating systems
        - Energy efficiency initiatives for new, low income and affordable housing.

- Develop Saskatchewan's biofuel industry through short-term loan assistance, new growth tax incentives and the infrastructure needed to support the development of biofuel facilities.

- Introduce legislation requiring mandatory 2.5per cent bio-diesel blend on diesel fuels sold in Saskatchewan once provincial production capacity is capable of meeting demand.

- Work with municipalities and stakeholders across the province to protect and conserve our natural resources.

- Ensure Saskatchewan communities have access to safe and clean water supplies, enforce conservation standards to prevent overfishing in our lakes, work with farmers to improve conservation measures and implement green initiatives on agricultural land.

- Work with municipalities and institutions across the province to ensure that new public buildings in the province are constructed to the Model National Energy Code.

This letter can be found at: www.gov.sk.ca/cabinet/heppner/

Progress in 2007-08

The Ministry of Environment has made significant progress implementing the key actions to which it committed in its 2007-08 Performance Plan, as well as implementing many of the early commitments made by the new government since it was elected in November 2007. These early commitments support the government's strategic priorities: growth, security and promises.

Below are updates on these commitments that relate to the work of the Ministry of Environment, as they were presented in the Minister's Mandate Letter, the December 2007 Speech from the Throne, and other key government commitments. This is followed by results information and updates for all key actions and performance measures that were published in the 2007-08 Performance Plan, organized by Environment's key program areas.

A New Government Direction – Growth, Security and Promises

This report provides results since the election of the new government in November of 2007, related to the new government's strategic priorities: growth, security, and promises as presented in the Minister's Mandate letter, the December Speech from the Throne, and other key government commitments.

Minister's Mandate Letter, November 2007

On November 21, 2007, the Honourable Brad Wall, Premier of Saskatchewan delivered mandate letters to Cabinet Ministers. Through his mandate letter the Premier called upon The Honourable Nancy Heppner, Minister of Environment to deliver on the key commitments listed below. The key commitments are followed by an update where significant progress has been achieved.

Key Commitments from the Minister of Environment's Mandate Letter

- Work with industry and the province's Crown Corporations to meet the province's greenhouse gas emission reduction target to:
    - Stabilize greenhouse gas emissions by 2010;
    - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 32 per cent from current levels by 2020, and
    - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80 per cent from current levels by 2050.
        - Saskatchewan Climate Change Plan to be launched in the fall 2008 to outline what actions are required to meet reduction targets. (Lead: Environment)
        - Environment consulting with numerous stakeholders in 2008-09 to determine what actions are required to reduce GHGs. (Lead: Environment)
        - SaskPower is evaluating the potential to increase renewable energy supply to grid. (Lead: SaskPower)

- Guide our Government's efforts to help Saskatchewan people and communities Go Green, including support for:
    - Programs underway through the Municipal Energy Efficiency Initiative, including energy efficient lighting and heating programs, assistance for energy efficiency in rinks and solar water heating;
        - Municipal Energy Efficiency Initiative announced in July 2007 to provide financial assistance is available for municipalities to undertake a variety of energy efficiency and renewable energy retrofits to municipal facilities. Funding is also available to municipalities for solar heating from the Solar Heating Initiative for Today program. Both programs will continue in 2008-09. (Lead: Environment)

- The Petroleum Technology Research Centre and International Test Centre for CO2 Capture at the University of Regina;
  - Government has a four year, $4 million commitment to enhance funding to the Petroleum Technology Research Centre and International Test Centre for carbon capture research. The majority of the 2008-09 funding will be allocated to the International Test Centre. (Lead: Energy and Resources)

- Environmental awareness and sustainable community initiatives, including local recycling programs;
  - A pilot program for Household Hazardous Waste was developed and implemented in seven communities throughout the province. (Lead: Environment)
  - Consultation with key stakeholders as part of the evaluation of a multi-material recycling program continues. (Lead: Environment)
  - In 2007-08, funding ($835,000) was provided to sixteen regional systems in support of regional recycling programs. (Lead: Environment)
  - In early 2008, a curriculum guide for high schools and a website for the public on the reduction of pesticide use for lawns and gardens were developed. (Lead: Environment)
  - In 2007-08, the Ministry continued to pursue improvements to landfill operation and management. Approximately 64.5 per cent of the operating landfills are permitted in the province and 44.4 per cent of operating transfer stations have approvals in the province. Compliance activities continued throughout the year as a means to improve landfill operation and reduce environmental impacts. (Lead: Environment)
  - Green Initiatives funding was provided ($50,000) to New North to research opportunities for establishing regional systems that would support improved management of municipal infrastructure in the Northern Administrative District. (Lead: Environment)
  - Late in the reporting period, work commenced on the formation of a national approach to wastewater bio-solids management through the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment. Saskatchewan is participating in this initiative. (Lead: Environment)
  - Thirty-nine Sustainable Community Grants totalling $1.03 million were awarded in 2007-08 for community development, education and demonstration projects that encourage and promote sustainable development and better equip the general public with knowledge and tools to implement sustainable development. (Lead: Environment)

- Research, development and the commercialization of environmental innovation through Innovation Saskatchewan;
  - Continue research to develop biofuels from non-food sources. (ex. cellulosic ethanol from residual wood waste) (Lead: Enterprise and Innovation)
  - Increase level of ethanol required in provincial fuel sources. (Lead: Enterprise and Innovation)
  - Two grants totalling $250,000 were awarded under the Green Technology Commercialization Program. (Lead: Environment)

- Energy conservation initiatives, including:
  - Low-interest loans to customers who install Energy Star qualified furnaces and boilers
    - Finance provides rebates to Saskatchewan consumers who purchase Energy Star qualified appliances and heating systems. (Lead: Finance)

- Rebating the PST for purchases of Energy Star qualified appliances and heating systems
    - Finance provides rebates to Saskatchewan consumers who purchase Energy Star qualified appliances and heating systems. (Lead: Finance)
- Energy efficiency initiatives for new, low income and affordable housing.
    - Developed an Energy Efficiency Program for New Housing to assist with the purchase of new homes that are ENERGY STAR® qualified, R-2000 certified or has an EnerGuide for New Homes rating of 80 or above. Program to continue in 2008-09. (Lead: Environment)
    - Green Initiatives Funding was provided to enhance the EnerGuide for Houses Program by providing compact fluorescent lighting and solar heating support. Program to continue in 2008-09. (Lead: Environment)
    - The University of Regina has been contracted to research effective means of encouraging energy-efficient retrofits in low-income homes. This research project is scheduled to be completed by January 2009. (Lead: Environment)

- In addition to these initiatives, the Ministry of Environment also led the following initiatives:
    - Developed Net Metering Program which provides financial incentives to increase the uptake of renewable energy in the province.
    - Developed the Solar Heating Initiative for Today to provide financial incentives for solar hot water heating.
    - In cooperation with Agriculture, examined opportunities related to the development of a Farm Energy Evaluation program, including opportunities for savings in farm fuel and fertilizer use, ventilated livestock buildings, and heating, ventilation and air conditioning.
    - Provided funding for the Parks Energy Efficiency Program.

- Develop Saskatchewan's biofuel industry through short-term loan assistance, new growth tax incentives and the infrastructure needed to support the development of biofuel facilities.
    - The SaskBIO Program provides interest free loans of up to $10 million to eligible biofuels facilities in Saskatchewan. (Lead: Enterprise and Innovation)

- Introduce legislation requiring mandatory 2.5 per cent bio-diesel blend on diesel fuels sold in Saskatchewan once provincial production capacity is capable of meeting demand.
    - .Saskatchewan does not have a biodiesel mandate. An inter-Ministerial committee has been established to develop a comprehensive strategy for biofuels. (Lead: Enterprise and Innovation)

- Work with municipalities and stakeholders across the province to protect and conserve our natural resources.
    - Ongoing work with urban areas such as Moose Jaw to address Species At Risk management. (Lead: Environment)
    - Green Initiatives funding provided to the Native Plant Society to conduct invasive alien plant (IAP) control ground control by herbicides and sheep grazing, develop an IAP reporting form to facilitate location mapping, publication of a weed guide and fact sheets, and five workshops. (Lead: Environment)
    - Ongoing agreement with Nature Saskatchewan for collaborative management of information in the Conservation Data Centre (CDC). There has been a significant increase in data captured within the CDC, including Parks Canada data. (Lead: Environment)
    - Participated in the development of Prairie Conservation Action Plan five-year plan. The Ministry's Fish, Wildlife and Biodiversity staff has rejoined the Board of Directors. (Lead: Environment)

- Fire Management and Forest Protection (FMFP) provides public education and wildfire awareness programming aimed at reducing the number of human caused wildfires, values protection and risk assessment, including the designing and implementation of fuels management strategies to assist with the protection of communities and major infrastructure on provincial forest and vacant crown lands in the province. FMFP undertook fuels mitigation programs in Bear Creek, Stanley Mission, Hall Lake, assisted Black Lake. (Lead: Environment)

- Ensure Saskatchewan communities have access to safe and clean water supplies, enforce conservation standards to prevent overfishing in our lakes, work with farmers to improve conservation measures and implement green initiatives on agricultural land.
  - Continue to implement activities such as waterworks inspections (842 in 2007-08); provision of advice and updates to waterworks operators and owners; water and wastewater quality standards development; operator certification (1,382 certified as of March 31, 2008); wastewater system inspections (513 in 2007-08); follow-up on water related problems by issuing Precautionary Drinking Water Advisories (194) and Emergency Boil Water Orders (5); review and track construction activities at water and wastewater systems (240); and work with other provincial ministries and agencies in advancing drinking water and source water protection through the Safe Drinking Water Strategy. Further information on activities and achievements in working to ensure communities have access to safe and clean water can be found in the "2007-08 Annual Report on the Status of Drinking Water Quality in Saskatchewan and the Safe Drinking Water Strategy". (Lead: Environment)

  - Work with farmers and agriculture producers/lessees in implementing conservation land management prescriptions across southern Saskatchewan on Ministry lands. (Lead: Environment)

  - Support ongoing education, survey, stewardship, and conservation initiatives with a number of ENGOs, conservation organizations, and Saskatchewan Watershed Authority through the Fish & Wildlife Development Fund. (Lead: Environment)

  - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority has developed numerous watershed plans and has implemented source protection plans to ensure access to safe and clean water. Details can be found at www.swa.ca/AboutUs/PerformancePlans.asp (Jointly led by: Environment, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority and Agriculture)

- Work with municipalities and institutions across the province to ensure that new public buildings in the province are constructed to the Model National Energy Code.
  - Start to develop energy efficiency standards for new buildings (ex. LEED certified). (Lead: Corrections, Public Safety and Policing)
  - Standardize renewable energy technologies on new homes (solar water heater). (Lead: Corrections, Public Safety and Policing)

December 2007 Speech from the Throne

The Speech from the Throne delivered on Monday December 10, 2007 outlined Government's commitments to the environment. Updates on actions taken to achieve these commitments are provided below.

Key Commitments from Speech from the Throne:

- Meeting greenhouse gas emissions targets
  - A $1.4 billion dollar government-industry partnership between the Government of Canada, the Government of Saskatchewan, SaskPower and private industry will demonstrate the technical, economic and environmental merits of carbon capture and sequestration technology at the Boundary Dam Power Station in Estevan. The federal government has committed $240 million to the project. (Lead: SaskPower)
  - Development of the provincial climate change policy framework, in conjunction with the interministerial working group. (Lead: Environment)
  - Committed to ensuring that all new vehicles that are purchased by government are either hybrid or high fuel efficiency vehicles. (Lead: Government Services)
  - Programs:
    - Public Education on Sustainability – Go Green Saskatchewan
    - Solar Heating Initiative For Today - Funding for solar heating targeted to commercial consumers of hot water.
    - Municipal Energy Efficiency Program - Financial assistance to municipalities to undertake a variety of energy efficiency and renewable energy retrofits to municipal facilities.
    - Carbon Dioxide Enhanced Oil Recovery and Storage Initiative – Ongoing studies will identify oil deposits, potential CO2 storage reservoirs, and ways to overcome barriers to enhanced oil recovery.
    - Green Technology Commercialization Grants - Funding to overcome barriers to commercialization of new and existing green technology in small and medium sized enterprises.

- Through the Crowns, helping homeowners, schools, hospitals and businesses go green
  - SaskPower Eneraction is a portfolio of new energy efficiency, conservation and load management programs to help Saskatchewan residents protect our environment and save money on their power bills. (Lead: SaskPower)
  - Insurance Rebate (SGI) – 20 per cent rebate on low emission vehicles (Lead: SGI)
  - Saskatchewan EnerGuide for Houses - a provincial grant of up to $5K on energy efficient upgrades made to homes. (Lead: SaskEnergy)

- Protecting and conserving our natural resources
  - In addition to previously reported progress under the section titled "*Key Commitments from the Minister of Environment's Mandate Letter*" the following also occurred:
    - Ambient air quality monitoring was carried out at five sites in northwest Saskatchewan (Beauval, Ile a la Crosse, Buffalo Narrows, Loon Lake and Tatakose) in November 2007 in order to enhance understanding of the effects of transboundary acidic emissions originating from the Alberta oil sands.
    - Wet acid deposition monitoring has been regularly conducted at seven sites (Fox Valley, Dewar Lake near Kindersley, North Battleford, Meadow Lake, Buffalo Narrows, La Loche, Cluff Lake) along the Alberta border to assess acid rain.

- Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment and Alberta Environment held joint workshops in March 2008 to create understanding and to build collaborative working relationship to develop a renewal work plan for acid deposition management.
- The Canada-Saskatchewan Species at Risk Memorandum of Understanding was signed in October, 2007 which addresses the planning and management for Species at Risk in the province.
- Critical Habitat for species listed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) was mapped in the Great Sand Hills through Predictive Distribution Modelling.
- Developed and implemented preventative measures to guard against intentional introduction of mountain pine beetle into Saskatchewan
- Continued aggressive control program to limit the spread of Dutch Elm disease in Saskatchewan
- Implemented a legal tracking/product identification process to address illegal export of wildlife taken on First Nation lands in cooperation with First Nation band leadership
- Developed a communication and compliance strategy to address illegal drainage in the Fishing Lake and Waldsea Lake watersheds in cooperation with the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority.

Progress by Key Program

This section provides detailed information on progress that the Ministry of Environment has made on the key actions in our 2007-08 Performance Plan as well as updating performance measures. Further information about the Ministry's performance measures is available in the 2007-08 Performance Plan, which can be found at www.environment.gov.sk.ca.

Environmental Protection

This program provides policies and planning, standard setting, partnerships, and ecological monitoring guidance for a diverse collection of the ministry's environmental protection programs including the centralized development of programs for air quality, water and wastewater, hazardous substances and contaminated sites, industrial operations, mining and milling operations, solid waste management, and the collection of recyclable wastes. It also provides financial support to the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority that has a mandate to manage water supplies and protect source water quality.

Results of Key Actions

- Lead development of the federal/provincial Municipal Wastewater Effluents Project. [2007-08 Planned Result]
  - ~ In progress.
  - ~ Fourth round of national consultation including fourth round of consultation in Saskatchewan completed.
  - ~ Work will be carried over to 2008-09.

- Contribute to the development of an integrated water management strategy for the Province. [2007-08 Planned Result]
  - ~ Completed
  - ~ Ministry of Environment staff participated in the development of a framework for an integrated management strategy for the Province as led by Saskatchewan Watershed Authority.

- Monitor water quality and ensure the public has access to information on water quality. [2007-08 Planned Result]
  - ~ Completed
  - ~ Regular sampling conducted at the province's primary surface water collection sites as planned.

- Support ongoing achievement of and compliance with Operator Certification and Operator Continuing Education requirements. [2007-08 Planned Result]
  - ~ Completed
  - ~ Facilitated operator certification compliance by encouraging Advanced Technology Applications Infrastructure Management, the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST) and some of the Regional Community Colleges to continue offering Certification Preparation classes.
  - ~ Operator certification and continuing education requirements were reviewed and discussed during each waterworks and sewage works inspection to help ensure operators remain current with certification requirements.
  - ~ The Ministry of Environment contributed to workshops and conferences offered by Saskatchewan Water and Wastewater Association, Saskatchewan Association of Rural Water Pipelines Inc., New North and First Nations.

- Implement strategies to aid small communities to ensure the provision of safe water by affordable and publicly acceptable means. [2007-08 Planned Result]
  - ~ Completed
  - ~ Implementation of regulatory amendments aimed at reducing the cost of provision of safe drinking water without compromising safety commenced.
  - ~ Information regarding the regulatory changes was developed and delivered to affected waterworks owners.
  - ~ Application of the hygienic waterworks requirements that alleviate many requirements for small waterworks while ensuring provision of safe water continued during 2007-08.
  - ~ The ministry also continued to implement the regional/contract operator certification policy to assist in ensuring waterworks operation are under the direction of a certified operator.

- Inspect waterworks across the province at a frequency of up to two inspections at each surface water and priority groundwater waterworks (based on compliance – minimum one inspection per year) and one inspection at every other regulated waterworks. Supplemental education and prevention activities will be delivered during inspections to help ensure waterworks meet operational and treatment requirements. Inspection protocols will be kept abreast of developments in water treatment technologies. [2007-08 Planned Result]
  - ~ In progress
  - ~ Inspection of waterworks continued in accordance with the Ministry's inspection protocol and targets. A total of 842 waterworks inspections (98 per cent) were conducted.
  - ~ Waterworks inspection protocol was reviewed and revised.
  - ~ During waterworks inspections, the need for activities or upgrading to meet drinking water quality standards and requirements are stressed by Environmental Project Officers. During 2007-08, added emphasis was placed on meeting upset reporting requirements and the pending turbidity standards so that waterworks owners were informed well in advance of the December 2008 compliance deadline for waterworks serving less than 5,000 persons.

- Complete annual sewage works inspections to identify which systems represent a risk to source water quality and to ensure sewage works meet operational and treatment requirements. [2007-08 Planned Result]
  - In progress
  - A total of 513 wastewater works inspections (98 per cent) were completed.
  - The sewage works inspection protocol was reviewed and revised.

- Advance the Province's airshed management program. [2007-08 Planned Result]
  - In progress
  - A working group has been established with participants from both Saskatchewan and Alberta.
  - A workshop with Alberta on inter-provincial airsheds was completed with recommendations for revisions proposed for incorporation into Saskatchewan/Alberta Air Quality Memorandum of Understanding.

- Use long-range transport modeling to determine projected levels of acid deposition on sensitive ecosystems. [2007-08 Planned Result]
  - In progress
  - Alberta's Ministry of Environment and Saskatchewan's Ministry of Environment had an information exchange on overall air quality systems.
  - A joint review of the RELAD (Regional Lagrangian Acid Deposition) model and potential replacement models appropriate for regional modeling was completed. Training for staff to be completed in 2008.

- Establish an air quality information management and reporting system including a public website that reports air quality in Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert and Swift Current. [2007-08 Planned Result]
  - In progress
  - Some progress made through the purchase of data acquisition software/hardware.

- Oversee clean-up of priority contaminated sites. [2007-08 Planned Result]
  - Completed
  - Remedial work at various sites completed as planned.

- Complete a provincial strategy for the management of municipal solid waste. [2007-08 Planned Result]
  - In progress
  - Household hazardous waste plan completed and approved. Contract awarded and collection events held across the province. Continuation of program expected in 2008-09.
  - Draft Solid Waste Management Plan is under review and expected to be complete in the summer of 2008. The Multi-material Recycling Plan is on hold to allow for further stakeholder consultation and further study on up to date multi-material volume and cost.

- Monitor uranium mine sites for public safety and regulatory compliance. [2007-08 Planned Result]
  - Completed
  - Inspections completed as planned.

Measurement Results

Water Quality Index (WQI) ratings for lakes

Waterbody	WQI Rating 2005*	WQI Rating 2006*	WQI Rating 2007
Jackfish Lake	64.3 Fair	68.7 Fair	65.4 Fair
Murray Lake	86.8 Good	91.5 Good	90.1 Good
Good Spirit Lake	88.5 Good	91.9 Good	**
Anglin Lake	100.0 Excellent	91.7 Good	92.2 Good
Christopher Lake	88.2 Good	83.8 Good	86.5 Good
Emma Lake	100.0 Excellent***	94.1 Good***	87.1 Good
Lac Pelletier	85.1 Good	87.3 Good	85.6 Good
Last Mountain Lake	78.2 Fair***	74.6 Fair***	72.9 Fair
Moosomin Reservoir	77.0 Fair	83.5 Good	82.5 good
Round Lake (Kelvington)	92.5 Good	96.2 Excellent	87.0 Good
Turtle Lake	92.5 Good	100.0 Excellent	95.4 Excellent
Brightsand Lake	83.0 Good	82.8 Good	**
Big Shell Lake	96.1 Excellent***	100.0 Excellent***	92.8 Good
Pike Lake	85.1 Good	91.6 Good	**

* Modifications for these performance measures were required during 2006-07 to allow for greater accuracy and improved clarity. The objectives of the Water Quality Index were updated to be consistent with Saskatchewan's Surface Water Quality Objectives, which were changed in 2006. As a result of the above changes, the baseline data for the Water Quality Index rating for rivers have effectively been re-calculated and re-established to 2005 and 2006, respectively.
** Site not sampled or insufficient number of samples to calculate the Water Quality Index.
*** Value recalculated in 2007-08 based on a combination of data from various sampling sites.
[Source: Saskatchewan Watershed Authority water quality monitoring results]

Water Quality Index (WQI) ratings for rivers

Waterbody	2003 - 2005	Rating	2004 - 2006	Rating	2005 - 2007	Rating
Assiniboine River*	67.6	Fair	68.9	Fair	70.8	Fair
Battle River *	59.1	Marginal	64	Fair	61.3	Fair
Beaver River *	75.2	Fair	78.9	Fair	79.4	Fair
Beaver River (Beauval)	91.7	Good	91.0	Good	88.5**	Good
Beaver River – (Dorintosh)	83.4	Good	82.5	Good	88.1**	Good
Carrot River *	62.6	Fair	64.7	Fair	62.5	Fair
Churchill River *	92	Good	91	Good	91.5	Good
Churchill River (Otter Rapids)	100	Excellent	100	Excellent	100**	Excellent
Cold River (Lake Outlet)	100	Excellent	100	Excellent	100	Excellent
North Saskatchewan River *	69.4	Fair	62.7	Fair	61.8	Fair
North Saskatchewan River (Cecil Ferry downstream)	66.9	Fair	58.9	Marginal	59.0	Marginal
North Saskatchewan River (Cecil Ferry upstream)	80.9***	Good	68.1***	Fair	62.6***	Fair
North Saskatchewan River (Prince Albert)	61.5	Fair	73.3	Fair	70.5	Fair

Waterbody	2003 - 2005	Rating	2004 - 2006	Rating	2005 - 2007	Rating
Qu'Appelle River *	64.9	Fair	60.7	Fair	61.4	Fair
Qu'Appelle River (below Qu'Appelle Dam)	100.0	Excellent	100.0	Excellent	100.0	Excellent
Qu'Appelle River (Wascana River)	76.1	Fair	70.1	Fair	71.0	Fair
Qu'Appelle River (Hwy#11 at Lumsden)	69.0	Fair	67.4	Fair	68.7**	Fair
Qu'Appelle River (Edenwold)	61.3	Fair	62.1	Fair	58.8**	Marginal
Red Deer River (SK/MB)*	86.6	Good	88.1	Good	81.1	Good
South Saskatchewan River*	78.7	Fair	79.5	Fair	76.8	Fair
South Saskatchewan River (Leader)	-----		-----		89.9***	Good
South Saskatchewan River (near Outlook)	-----		-----		97.3***	Excellent
South Saskatchewan River (W Clarkboro)	-----		-----		97.9***	Excellent
Saskatchewan River*	74.4	Fair	73.4	Fair	74.4	Fair

** PPWB Station*
*** no data for 2007*
**** no data for 2005*
----- no sampling occurred/insufficient data
[Source: Saskatchewan Watershed Authority water quality monitoring results]

The following descriptive categories are used to further explain the Water Quality Index results:

- Excellent: (WQI value 95-100) - water quality is protected with a virtual absence of threat or impairment; conditions very close to natural or pristine levels. These index values can only be obtained if all measurements are within objectives virtually all of the time.
- Good: (WQI value 80-94) - water quality is protected with only a minor degree of threat or impairment; conditions rarely depart from natural or desirable levels.
- Fair: (WQI value 60-79) - water quality is usually protected but occasionally threatened or impaired; conditions sometimes depart from natural or desirable levels.
- Marginal: (WQI value 45-59) - water quality is frequently threatened or impaired; conditions often depart from natural or desirable levels.
- Poor: (WQI value 0-44) - water quality is almost always threatened or impaired; conditions usually depart from natural or desirable levels.

The Water Quality Index (WQI), which is based on the national index developed by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, is an overall measure of the quality of water for specific uses such as the protection of aquatic life, livestock watering and recreation. The index is a composite of measurements of different chemicals and organisms in the water at safe levels for a particular use. It is a good measure of the quality of surface or groundwater and can help expose issues and risks impacting surface and groundwater quality.

The Water Quality Index ratings provide a good measure of the quality of water in Saskatchewan's lakes and rivers and allow a comparison of changing results over time. However a limited number of samples are taken in any single year and this, as well as changes in water levels and river flow from year to year, can produce significant annual changes in the index. To provide a more meaningful picture of longer

term change that is still sensitive to real underlying changes, the water quality index for rivers has been presented as a three year mean. It was previously presented as 5 and 15 year means.

The Ministry has little direct control over the results of this broad measure of water quality. Samples are collected by industries and municipalities in accordance with their permits, as well as by Ministry of Environment staff and other agencies.

The assessment of all watersheds using the WQI is a long-term project. The Ministry of Environment will be using the data collected from its primary monitoring stations on the major trans-boundary watersheds.

Additional information on Water Quality Index ratings is available in the Annual Report on the State of Drinking Water Quality and the Safe Drinking Water Strategy which can be found at www.saskh2o.ca/news.asp .

Per cent of communities with human consumptive waterworks whose operators have received some level of certification

March 2006	March 2007	March, 2008	Annual Change
96.8%	98.9%	99.2%	↑ 0.2%

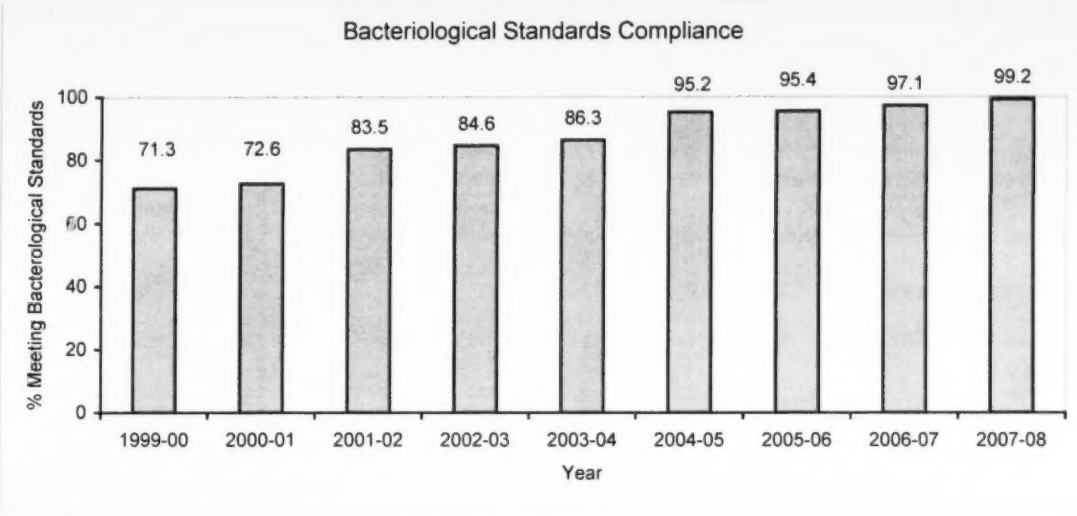
[Source: The Ministry of Environment – Environmental Management System]

As of March 31, 2008, 99.2 per cent of communities with human consumptive waterworks have operators that have achieved some level of certification. This is a slight increase since the previous year when 98.9 per cent of community waterworks had an operator certified to some level. Approximately 99.95 per cent of the population served by a community (municipal) human consumptive waterworks have an operator that has received full certification or some level of training. Knowledgeable, certified operators help to ensure safe drinking water.

Compliance with operator certification and therefore achievement of this measure is primarily controlled by the owner of the waterworks, but also requires cooperation from the waterworks operator(s). Acceptance and uptake of operator certification is key to ensuring the delivery of safe drinking water and therefore a reason this measure was selected. As a point of comparison, Alberta's (population 3.2 million) mandatory certification program took effect on January 1, 1983, and its program currently has 1,831 certified operators. Currently their certification examinations, certification applications and certificate renewals are free. Saskatchewan (population 1 million) has 1,304 certified operators, examinations cost about $95.00 and certification and renewal fees (every two years) are $130.00. All things considered, Saskatchewan's certification program has progressed very well in comparison.

This measure quantifies the number of communities with waterworks operators that have been certified to some level and directly supports gauging progress towards the objective of having waterworks staff that are capable and well trained and thereby help assure safe drinking water. The greater the number of communities with certified operators, the greater the safety of the water supply since operator knowledge will influence the quality of water produced. The Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment influences this measure by establishing regulations that require the certification of operators; however, it is up to each waterworks owner to ensure that they comply with the regulations.

Per cent of facilities that meet bacteriological guidelines 90 per cent of the time



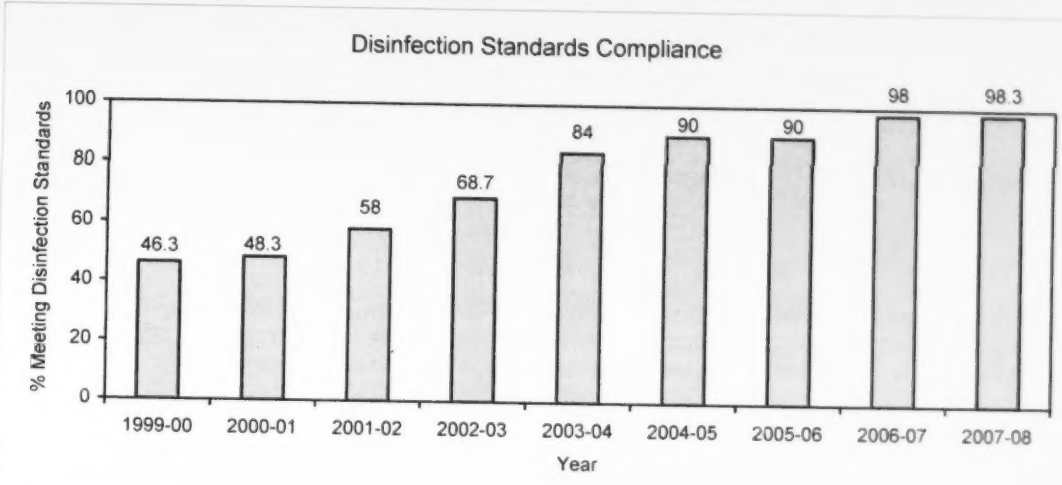
[Source: The Ministry of Environment – Environmental Management System]

There has been a steady increase in compliance with bacteriological water quality standards (90 per cent of the time) over the past five fiscal years with a 12.9 per cent increase in compliance from 86.3 for 2003-04 to 95.2 per cent for the 2004-05 fiscal year to 95.4 per cent for the 2005-06 fiscal year to 97.1 percent in 2006-07 and to 99.2 percent in 2007-08. Increases in bacteriological compliance also matches well with low numbers of Precautionary Drinking Water Advisories (PDWA) and Emergency Boil Water Orders (EBWO) issued in 2007-08 (three PDWAs and five EBWOs). The steady increase in compliance with standards is the result of increased inspection and follow-up on water quality sampling results by the Ministry of Environment staff as well as increased attention to water treatment and monitoring by waterworks owners and operators.

The bacteriological quality of drinking water is important since contamination of this type can result in significant illness within a short period of time. Compliance with bacteriological water quality standards was selected as a reportable performance measure, since it provides a good indication of drinking water quality, which is important to consumers.

Compliance with this measure is primarily controlled by the owner of the waterworks, but also requires cooperation from the waterworks operator(s) in achieving bacteriological water quality compliance. Ongoing inspection and interaction with waterworks owners and operators is planned to sustain good performance in achieving water that is safe from bacteriological threats.

Per cent of waterworks (regulated by The Ministry of Environment) that meet disinfection requirements 90 per cent of the time



[Source: The Ministry of Environment – Environmental Management System]

There has been a significant increase in compliance with the disinfection standards over the past five fiscal years with a 14.3 per cent increase in compliance from 84 per cent in 2003-04 to 90.2 per cent in 2004-05, to 90.1 per cent in 2005-06, to 98.19 per cent in 2006-07 and to 98.33 per cent in 2007-08. The increase in compliance with the disinfection standards can be directly attributed to an increased field presence by Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment inspection staff and a renewed awareness by waterworks owners and operators of the regulatory requirements.

Proper disinfection of drinking water is one of the most important ways to ensure safe drinking water and prevent the outbreak of waterborne diseases. Compliance with chlorine residual requirements was selected as a measure, since it provides a good indication of drinking water protection, which is important to consumers. Compliance with this measure is primarily controlled by the owner of the waterworks, but also requires cooperation from the waterworks operator(s) in achieving disinfection standards compliance. Ongoing inspection and interaction with waterworks owners and operators is planned to sustain good performance in achieving water that is safe from bacteriological threats and meets disinfection standards.

Number of sewage effluent discharges that represent a risk to source waters

March 2005	March 2006	March 2007	March 2008	Annual Change
93	85	116	114*	↓ 2**

*The Ministry has initiated preventative and compliance actions to resolve problems or advance progress at 61 sewage works in the province since 2004-05.

** Performance measure evaluates likely compliance with pending Canada-wide Standards for Municipal Wastewater Effluents as of 2006-07.

[Source: The Ministry of Environment – Environmental Management System]

As of March 31, 2008, approximately 114 wastewater systems have been identified as having discharge that may reach a surface water body under certain conditions. Of these 114 systems approximately 70 may require compliance with pending Canada-wide Standards for Municipal Wastewater Effluent (MWWE). The Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment has increased preventative and compliance

actions to resolve problems or advance progress at 43 sewage works in the province during 2007-08, bringing the total to approximately 61 since 2004-05. On an annual basis ministry staff review the quality of effluent from each regulated sewage works. Reduction of ammonia and chlorine residual emissions within treated wastewater effluent, sewage works capacity or other treatment capability issues typically involve significant planning, investment and construction. Therefore, it can be expected that reductions in the number of works, which represent a risk to source waters, will be a time consuming process

Per cent of survey respondents indicating that they are willing to pay more for their drinking water

December 2001	May 2003	March 2005	March 2006	May 2007	February 2008	Change
61%	61.9%	68%	70.8%	67.8%	68.8%	↑ 1.0%

[Source: Government of Saskatchewan Omnibus Polling Results – February 2008]

Based on a February 2008 omnibus poll conducted by the Government of Saskatchewan, 68.8 per cent of people polled are willing to pay more to improve their drinking water (strongly agree or agree). This value is 1 per cent more than the previous poll in May 2007 and is 7.8 per cent greater than the December 2001 poll before implementation of the Strategy. The polling results continue to show ongoing public recognition of the value of water or willingness to pay for it at levels relatively consistent polling results since March 2005. The polling results may be related to the high level of confidence in safety of drinking water and may also be influenced by ready access to information on drinking water quality. How consumers value quality water and their willingness to pay for it is an indication of their understanding of the importance of safe drinking water and the true cost to produce it.

Per cent of survey respondents indicating that they are very or somewhat confident in the quality of their tap water

December 2001	May 2003	March 2005	March 2006	May 2007	February 2008	Change
72%	87%	86%	87.3%	82.6%	86.6%	↑ 4.0%

[Source: The Ministry of Environment Polling Results – February 2008]

Based on a February 2008 omnibus poll conducted by the Government of Saskatchewan, 86.6 per cent of people polled strongly agreed or agreed they are confident in the safety of their own drinking water. These polling results show a high level of confidence represent an increase of 4.0 per cent from May 2007 and are 14.6 per cent greater than December 2001 when 72 per cent of people surveyed were very or somewhat confident in the quality of their tap water. Actions initiated under the Safe Drinking Water Strategy such as consumer education efforts, waterworks inspections, implementation of water quality standards, water workshops and consumer notification help build confidence in the safety of drinking water at a relatively high level in excess of 80 per cent. Ongoing attention to the elements of the strategy will help to maintain the high level of public confidence in safety of drinking water in the future. The measure is important since it provides an indication of how efforts to ensure safe drinking water are progressing.

Number of system owners that publicly release water quality results

March 2002	March 2003	March 2004	March 2005	March 2006	March 2007	March 2008	Annual Change
3	118	359	508	494	511	637	↑126

[Source: The Ministry of Environment – Environmental Management System]

As of March 31, 2008, 637 of waterworks owners publicly released water quality results to the consumers that they serve. This value represents a significant increase since the 2006-07 fiscal year. Notification of

consumers is required on an annual basis for waterworks governed by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment. The Ministry of Environment will continue to pursue further progress on attainment of public reporting requirements during 2008-09 and beyond. The number of system owners that publicly release water quality results is a good way to determine if consumers have direct meaningful access to information about the quality of their water. Additional waterworks specific information on drinking water quality is also available from http://www.saskh2o.ca/MyDrinkingWater.asp .

Number of waterworks that do not meet the Ministry of Environment's minimum treatment requirements (broken down by pre and post regulatory changes)

	March 31 2004	March 31 2005	March 31 2006	March 31 2007	March 31 2008	Annual Change
Waterworks regulated before regulatory changes	20	17	9	8	4	↓ 4
Waterworks regulated following regulatory changes	5	7	5	8	8	0
Total	25	24	14	16	12	↓ 4

[Source: The Ministry of Environment – Environmental Management System]

As of March 31, 2008 there are a net of 12 waterworks that do not meet Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment's minimum treatment requirements, a net decrease of 25 per cent since the previous year when there were 16 such works. The above table provides a summary of waterworks not meeting minimum treatment requirements broken down by pre and post regulatory changes. The decrease is the result of ongoing improvements to existing waterworks to correct deficiencies of the water treatment systems. Educational efforts are ongoing as is provision of funding through various funding programs in the past to upgrade works. Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment's educational and compliance efforts will continue during 2008-09 and beyond as a means to reduce the number of waterworks not meeting minimum treatment requirements.

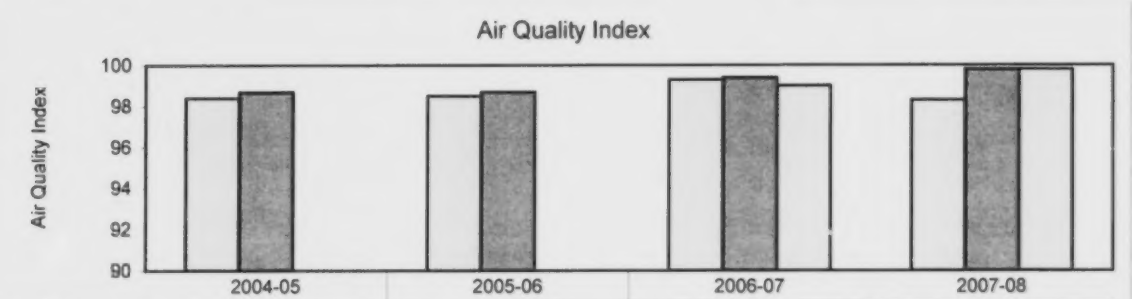
The owner of the waterworks primarily controls the achievement of this measure, however the regulator has significant influence through a number of mechanisms. Periodically, as newly regulated waterworks are permitted, inadequacies in water treatment capability are discovered, an increase in newly regulated waterworks not meeting minimum treatment will occur.

Safe drinking water is critical to human health. Meeting minimum treatment requirements is a measure of infrastructure water treatment capability, and therefore of the safety of drinking water that they produce. The Ministry of Environment has a high level of influence over this measure through the Ministry's regulations; however, because of significant costs for treatment upgrades, communities need time and encouragement to comply. The Ministry of Environment's staff are working with communities to help them understand the importance of meeting these requirements and to encourage them to improve their performance in providing safe drinking water.

This measure is a good indicator of the ability of communities to comply with government requirements regarding safe drinking water.

Per cent of time the rating from the Air Quality Index is good to excellent in Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert and Swift Current (based on an annual average)

The Air Quality Index rate for Regina and Saskatoon were good to excellent 98.3 per cent and 99.8 per cent of the time respectively.



	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Regina	98.4	98.5	99.3	98.3
Saskatoon	98.7	98.7	99.4	99.8
Prince Albert			99	99.8

[Source: The Ministry of Environment - Environmental Protection Branch]

The air pollution index is used to monitor long-term trends in air quality. The index is a composite of data about measurements of chemicals and particulates in the air. Maintaining urban air quality is an important part of meeting this objective. The Ministry of Environment has established monitoring stations in Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert and Swift Current. Swift Current is not reported on due to incomplete data to develop an accurate index rating for 2007-08.

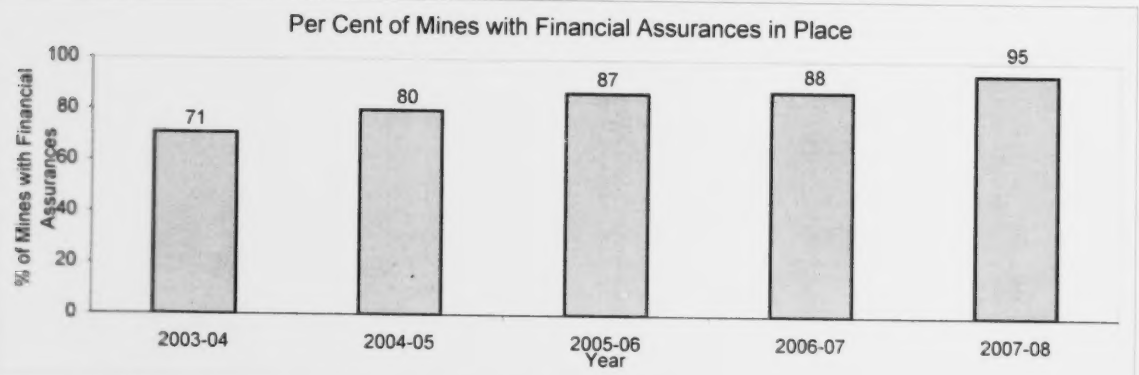
This measure is only an indicator of the impact of air quality on health as it measures air quality at a point source, not for the overall population. Over the longer-term, The Ministry of Environment will also need to better define rural air quality impacts. The Ministry has little direct control over the results of this broad measure of air quality.

The following descriptive categories are used to further explain the Air Quality Index results:

- Excellent - AQI value 0 - 15 - No known harmful effects to soil, water, vegetation, animals, materials, visibility or human health.
- Good - AQI value 16 - 25 - No known harmful effects to soil, water, vegetation, animals, materials, visibility or human health. Persons with severe respiratory ailments sensitive to air pollution may notice some minor effects.
- Fair - AQI value 26 - 50 - adequate protection against harmful effects to soil, water, vegetation, animals, materials, visibility and hum,an health. Persons with severe respiratory ailments sensitive to air pollution may need to modify their usual outdoor activities if experiencing effects.
- Poor - AQI value 51 - 100 - not all aspects of the environment and human health are adequately protected from possible adverse effects. General population should consider reducing or rescheduling strenuous outdoor activities and higher risk populations should reduce or reschedule outdoor activities.
- Very Poor - AQI value >100 - continued air quality in this range could pose high risk to environment and public health.

Per cent of mines with financial assurances in place

In 2007-08 the per cent of mines with financial assurances increased to 95 per cent from 88 per cent in 2006-07. The financial assurances for the remaining three mines in the province are anticipated to be finalized in 2008-09.



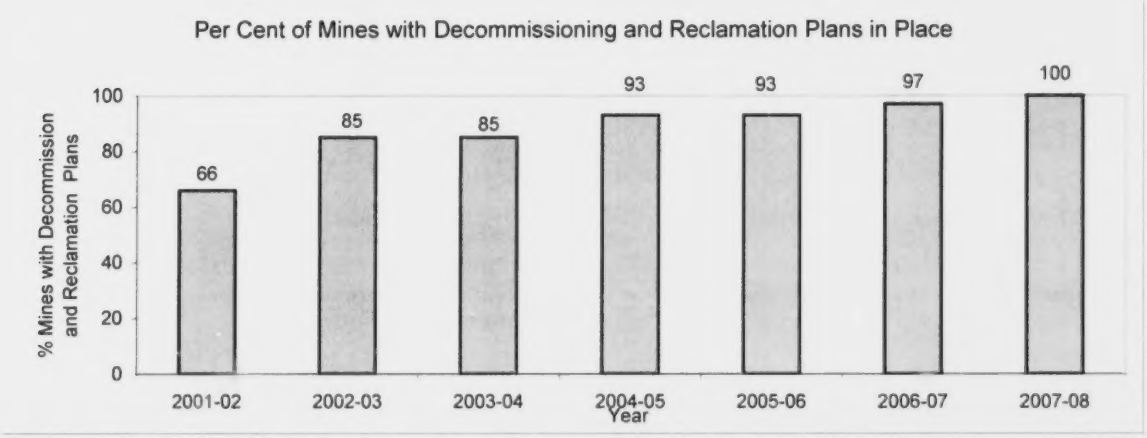
[Source: The Ministry of Environment data and mine company annual reports]

Reclamation of mine sites can have positive impacts to the protection and conservation of the province's natural resources by returning the site to its original natural state. Mining companies are required to have decommissioning plans and financial assurances in place to ensure that they do not place a burden on Saskatchewan taxpayers should they fail to meet their decommissioning and reclamation obligations. The Ministry directly regulates the environmental aspects of mining operations and therefore directly influences measure results.

Financial assurances are critical to be able to mitigate the impact of contamination on land at the source of these operations. This measure is not an indication of risk but an indictor of the ability to mitigate risk.

Per cent of mines with decommissioning and reclamation plans in place

Per cent of mines with decommissioning and reclamation plans in place has increased to 100 per cent from 97 per cent in 2006-07.



[Source: The Ministry of Environment data and mine company annual reports]

Decommissioning and reclamation plans put in place by mining companies ensure environmental protection at the end of the operation's life. The Ministry directly regulates the environmental aspects of mining operations and therefore has a direct influence over the measurement results. This is a good measure of the mining industry's commitment to environmental stewardship.

Decommissioning and reclamation plans are critical for appropriate mitigating actions to be taken, ensuring land is returned to its original state. Again, this measure is not an indication of risk but an indicator of the ability to mitigate risk.

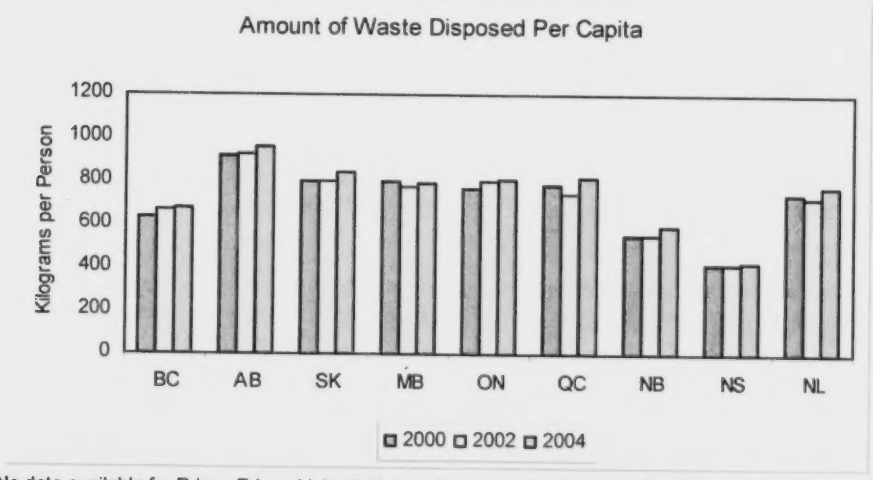
Per cent of known municipal landfills permitted

2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Annual Change
18%	28%	40%	43%	60%	↑17%

[Source: Ministry of Environment, Environmental Protection Branch]

Properly permitted landfills ensure that the site is adhering to good management practices. By reporting on the percentage of permitted landfills, we are encouraging these operations to continue to adhere to requirements. In addition it is expected that this reporting will increase the awareness of non-permitted operations and encourage them to get their operations permitted. The Ministry of Environment has indirect influence over the regulation of existing landfills, as these are typically a municipal responsibility.

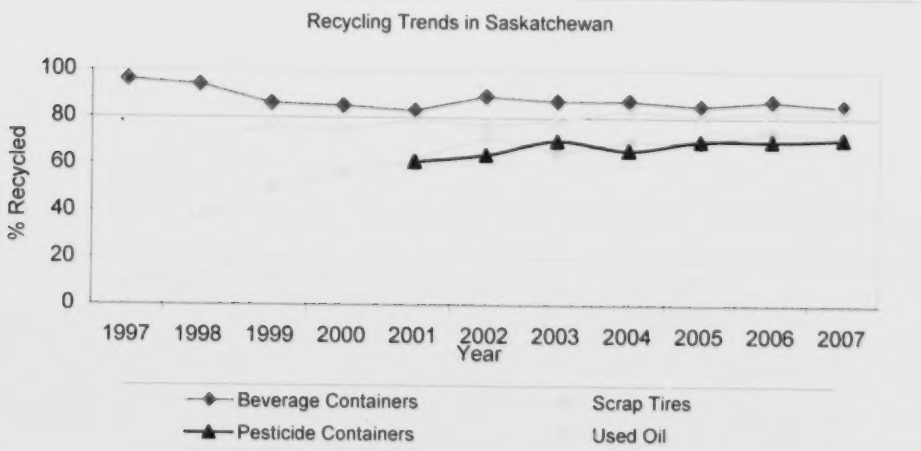
Amount of waste disposed per capita (kilograms per person)



No data available for Prince Edward Island, Yukon, Northwest Territories or Nunavut.
[Source: Statistics Canada - reported every two years, with a two-year lag time]

Waste disposed per capita is an indication of the success in diverting waste from landfills, and reducing risk of contaminated soil and groundwater from landfills. There are many factors affecting the amount of waste disposed, some of which are within the ministry's influence and many of which are outside of the ministry's influence, such as economic growth, which tends to result in increased waste.

Recycling rates for the following: Scrap tires; Beverage containers; Pesticide Containers; Used Oil; Paint; and E-Waste



Notes: -Some figures are approximate based on an estimate of the total generated in the province
-Beverage container data is based on a fiscal year. The fiscal year 2007-08 is represented by 2007.
-Data for Scrap Tires, Pesticide Containers and Used Oil is based on calendar year.
[Source: External third party organization annual reports]

	2006-07	2007-08
Paint	16,359 litres	599,000 litres
E-Waste*	203 tonnes	1,550.64 tonnes

**E-waste program began February 1, 2007*
[Source: Saskatchewan Paint Stewardship Program and Saskatchewan Waste Electronic Equipment Program]

Recycling is an indicator of public commitment to waste minimization and indicates shared responsibility for environmental stewardship. Baseline percentages reported in the recycling program are based on the proportion of total annual product sales in the province. The ministry administers the enabling regulations for a number of third-party stewardship programs. Market conditions and public commitment determine the recycling rates.

In general, recycling rates of products are an indicator of possible risks to people and the environment but are not a measure of the potential exposure of individuals to hazardous contaminants. Other measures will have to be considered to properly assess the effects of environmental contamination on human health.

Saskatchewan has among the highest recycling rates in Canada. Over the long term, we will maintain our high levels of recycling and increase the types of products recycled.

Recycling is a waste minimization indicator. Benchmark percentages reported in the recycling program are based on the proportion of total annual product sales in the province. The Ministry administers the enabling regulations for a number of third-party stewardship programs. The Ministry of Environment has no direct influence on the recycling rates; rather, market conditions determine these rates.

For further information on recycling of these materials see:
www.scraptire.sk.ca
www.sarcsarcan.ca
www.usedoilrecycling.com
www.sweepit.ca

Forest Service

This program maintains a forest resource database for management of commercial forests; encourages economic opportunities using timber and other forest products; promotes sustainability of forested lands; and develops and manages forestry related legislation, regulations and policies.

Results of Key Actions

- Improve our ability to detect, prioritize, and control invasive forest insects and diseases that may impact biodiversity values of the forest. [2007-08 Planned Result]
  - Completed
  - Monitoring program for invasive forest insects and diseases completed and summary of data presented at the National Pest Management Forum.
  - Hosted Mountain pine beetle symposium in July 2007.
  - Forest Health report including a summary of the monitoring program completed.

- Work with municipalities and the Saskatchewan Dutch Elm Disease Association in cost sharing implementation of Dutch Elm Disease control strategies. [2007-08 Planned Result]
  - Completed
  - Cost-share agreements in place with 43 communities.

- ~ Two rounds of surveillance and monitoring activities completed in 43 communities in Saskatchewan.
- ~ Conducted two rounds of tree removals in the communities as per the agreements.

- Ensure renewal of harvested areas within the provincial forests. Forest Service to plant approximately two million trees through the not sufficiently regenerated (NSR) backlog lands program. [2007-08 Planned Result]
  - ~ Completed
  - ~ Approximately 2 millions trees planted as planned in the Pasquia Porcupine Forest Management Agreement Area.

- Provide support for efforts to build a new provincial forestry industry. [2007-08 Planned Result]
  - ~ Completed
  - ~ Support provided as requested by the Forest Secretariat including work on developmental opportunities in biomass and bioenergy.

- Protect the commercial forest from spruce budworm damage with appropriate treatment regimes. [2007-08 Planned Result]
  - ~ Completed
  - ~ Overwintering larval population survey results analyzed and spray planning commenced.

- Support efforts to establish agro-forestry in the Province by providing technical forestry expertise and silvicultural advice. [2007-08 Planned Result]
  - ~ In progress
  - ~ Work continues to develop internal capacity to provide technical forestry expertise and silviculture advice.

- Complete four additional results based standards in support of the new regulatory framework necessary to implement and enforce sustainable forest management. [2007-08 Planned Result]
  - ~ In progress
  - ~ Work continues on developing draft standards for Operations Planning and Natural Forest Patterns.
  - ~ Released the following completed standards: Forest Management Planning Document, Dwarf Mistletoe and the Quality Assurance Protocols for Inventory Assessment.

Measurement Results

Number of hectares of the Provincial forest meeting basic level of forest management (fire suppression, licensed harvest, standards including renewal, consultation).

2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Annual Change
5,393,984 hectares	5,393,984 hectares	5,393,984 hectares	0

[Source: Data source Ministry of Environment, Forest Service Branch]]

The number of hectares of the Provincial forest meeting basic level of forest management has remained the same.

Basic level of forest management refers to having a licensed harvest that follows some standards of practice, where some form of consultation takes place with affected stakeholders prior to harvest, where

trees get planted after harvest, and where fire suppression will be initiated to protect the resource. Term supply licences for specified areas would qualify as basic level of forest management.

By monitoring this performance measure we will get an indirect sense of the economic benefits realized from the management of different forest values and if they are being maintained in the long term.

Number of hectares of the Provincial forest meeting enhanced level of forest management (basic forest management plus approved Forest Management Plan, Forest Management Effects Monitoring Plan implemented, trust fund establish for forest renewal).

2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Annual Change
7,312,260 hectares	7,312,260 hectares	7,312,260 hectares	0

[Source: Ministry of Environment, Forest Service Branch]]

The number of hectares of the Provincial forest meeting an enhanced level of forest management has remained the same. In 2007-08, no existing Area Based Term Supply Licenses (TSLs) were converted into Forest Management Agreement Areas and no new Forest Management Agreements were established in the province. Forest Management Agreements are considered to be an enhanced level of forest management.

Enhanced level of forest management refers to having met the basic level forest management requirements (fire suppression, licensed harvest, standards including renewal, consultation) plus Forest Management Plan and a Forest Management Effects Monitoring Plan.

By monitoring both basic and enhanced levels of forest management, these performance measures give an indirect sense of the economic benefits realized from the management of different forest values and if they are being maintained in the long term.

By establishing these two performance measures, the Ministry is better able to reflect the extent to which the provincial forest is being managed for long term environmental sustainability. The Ministry will use this measure to monitor progress as industry improves their forest management practices from meeting the basic requirements to more environmentally superior and value added management techniques.

The Ministry has influence over these two measures because the Ministry determines and allocates the different forest tenure licences. All allocated areas in the commercial forest have a forest trust fund to ensure basic forest management to take place. Third party allocations within these allocated areas (Forest Management Agreements, Area Based Term Supply Licences, Island Forests) also realize basic forest management requirements.

Sustainability of the forest is dependent on a wide variety of factors, particularly external market impacts on the forest industry. The number of hectares of Crown land within the Commercial Forest that have in place a comprehensive suite of management programs, including adequate forest inventory, reforestation plans, appropriate environmental assessments, Forest Management Agreements are a measure, or indicator, of sustainable use of Saskatchewan's provincial forest resources. Although there has been no change in the forest area boundaries, the Ministry continues to acquire more accurate geospatial data to better calculate the areas affected by these practices. The Ministry has direct influence over these measures because sustainable management tools are Ministry led. Factors that influence forestry development initiatives include lack of infrastructure in remote areas, market demands and opportunities for value-added products.

Per cent of annual allowable cut harvested

2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	Change
69.5% corrected from 67%	66.1% corrected from 64%	39.5%	↓ 26.6%

Note: The data has a lag time of one year.
[Source: The Ministry of Environment – Forest Service Branch]

In 2006-07 there was 39.5 per cent of the allowable cut harvested. This is a decrease of 26.6 per cent from 2005-06. The major factor contributing to the significant decrease in the amount harvested was the closure of the Weyerhaeuser pulp and paper facility (Prince Albert) as well as other processing facilities throughout the province. The closures largely resulted from a general cool-down of some forest product markets as well as the elimination of a large sawmill chip market in the closure of the Prince Albert pulp and paper facility. As of the 2007 operating year, 50 per cent of the major wood product manufacturing facilities in Saskatchewan were closed indefinitely.

The Ministry of Environment establishes the maximum annual allowable cut and industry decides what percentage of that they will actually harvest based on market demand, prices and other similar factors. The Ministry of Environment maintains information for this measure. There is a one year time lag on this data.

The percentage of annual allowable cut harvested reflects the effectiveness of the balance between environmental protection and economic development. The annual allowable cut is determined by a variety of environmental factors. The Ministry has significant influence over this measure because the Ministry determines the annual maximum allowable cut. However, individual companies determine the percentage of the allowable cut they will actually harvest based on a number of uncontrollable factors including demand and available prices for forest sector products.

Fire Management and Forest Protection

This program plans and delivers forest fire detection, pre-suppression and suppression programs; conducts public awareness and education programs; and operates the Province's fleet of fire fighting aircraft. It also maintains meteorological and communications services and provides for recoverable costs incurred while assisting other jurisdictions with fire suppression activities.

Results of Key Actions

- Deliver a high profile public awareness campaign with the objectives of: reducing human-caused fires, having those stakeholders that are active in the forest take responsibility to avoid or mitigate the risk from fires, and building understanding of changes to wildfire management strategies. [2007-08 Planned Result]
  - ~ Completed
  - ~ Annual public awareness advertising campaign was undertaken.
  - ~ Fifty-seven per cent of Saskatchewan residents recall seeing or hearing the fire awareness messages "Be prepared...Don't let your fire go wild" or "Be fire smart...Don't let your fire go wild."

- Act as a catalyst for risk mitigation work with northern communities by building understanding of wildfire risk and encouraging communities to take ownership of actions to reduce risks. [2007-08 Planned Result]
  - ~ In progress
  - ~ Fuel management projects carried out at the following communities: Bear Creek, Hall Lake, Stanley Mission, Black Lake, Stony Rapids and East Trout Lake.
  - ~ Wildfire Prevention Officer hired.

- ~ This item will be carried over to 2008-09.

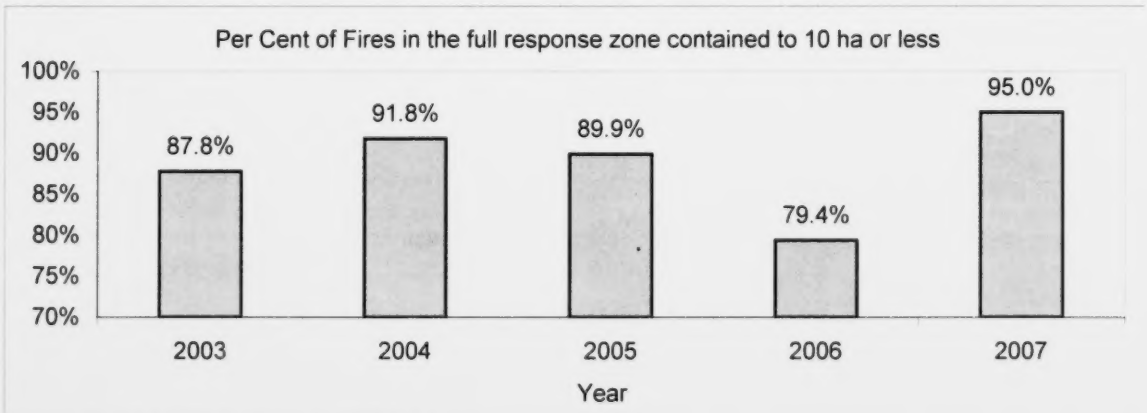
- Aerial fleet renewal – complete work on a five-year modernization program for four of the six Canadair water bombing aircraft and continue work on the replacement of the Tracker aircraft (with the CV 580A). [2007-08 Planned Result]
  - ~ In progress
  - ~ Work continues on Fleet Renewal focusing on completing modernization of the aerial fleet and upgrading infrastructure across the north. In 2007-08, approximately $5 million was spent on conversion of CL 215's and hangar improvements. Approximately $6 million was spent on payment on the replacement of the CV 580A.

- Continue succession planning and implementation in targeted areas specific to the Fire Management and Forest Protection Program. [2007-08 Planned Result]
  - ~ Ongoing
  - ~ Career Development work term appointments for staff implemented.
  - ~ Staff development work plans completed as planned.

Measurement Results

Per cent of fires in the full response zone contained to 10 hectares or less

For the 2007 fire season, 263 of the 278 fires in the full response zone were contained to a size of 10 hectares or less. This translates to a 95 per cent containment rate.

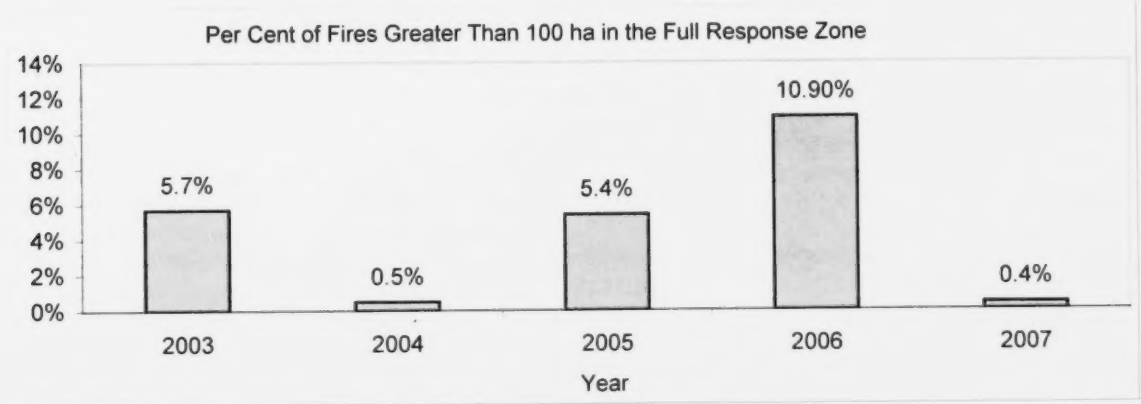


[Source: The Ministry of Environment, NR22 Database]

The percentage of contained fires is a measure of how well the pre-planning, detection and initial attack components of the program are working. Containing fires to smaller sizes will minimize the number of communities threatened by fire, as well as reduce the area burned and the costs associated with fire suppression. The Ministry of Environment's performance results and operating costs depend on a number of factors: analysis of the landscape and its vulnerability to fire starts (e.g., moisture levels, wind speed and direction, fuel type); effective planning to pre-position resources in areas where fire might be expected; ease of access to the location of the fire; topography of fire location; early detection of fires; rapid/effective initial attack and quick reliable support from aircraft.

Per cent of escaped fires in the full response zone that are larger than 100 hectares

In 2007, only one of the 278 fires in the full response zone (communities and commercial timber) exceeded 100 hectares. This translates to a rate of containment of 0.4 per cent.

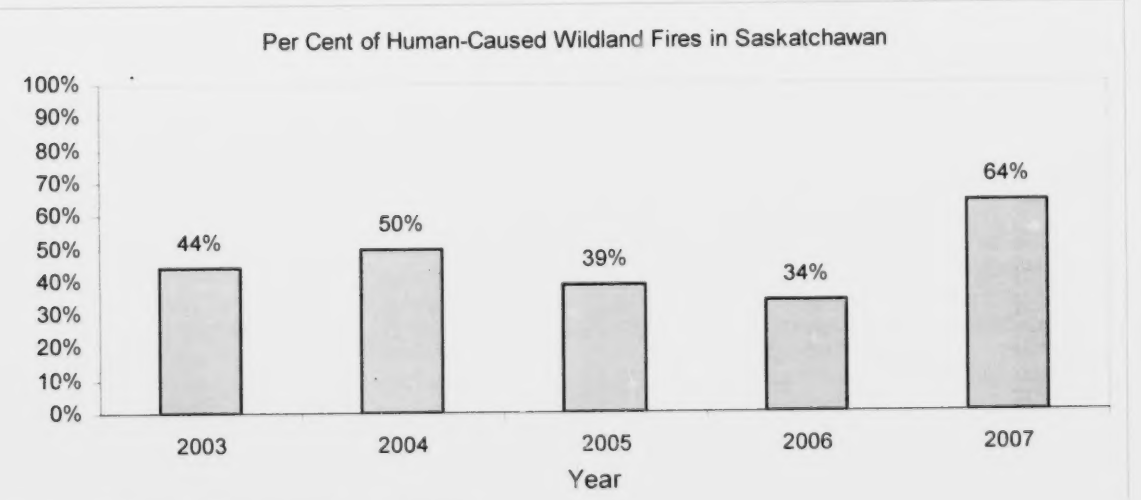


[Source: The Ministry of Environment, NR22 Database]

Escaped fires are an unavoidable occurrence in forest fire programs. Uncontrollable circumstances, such as: poor detection conditions; multiple fire starts; dry, windy burning conditions; the volatility of the fuel; proximity to resources to allow for successful initial attack; topography; and the time of year can all combine to create conditions that allow fires to grow beyond 100 hectares. Resources needed to suppress fires escalate as the fire size grows, so costs also grow quickly.

Percentage of human-caused wildland fires

Of the 370 fire starts in the entire province in 2007, 63.5 per cent were human-caused fires. The ten year average for human caused fires is 47 per cent.



[Source: The Ministry of Environment, NR22 Database]

The wildland fire prevention education and awareness campaign is designed to reduce the percentage of human-caused wildland fires by encouraging individuals to recognize their responsibility for mitigating risk of wildfire around communities, industrial sites, and recreational leases, by providing individuals with the information they need to be aware of the risks of starting a wildfire, and to use fire safely. Increasing this awareness is intended to reduce the percentage of human-caused fires, which typically occur closer to communities and resort properties where more people are located. The branch has also begun to focus more effort on educating northern communities leading to better understanding of the impacts of human-caused wildfire. The Ministry has indirect influence over this measure.

This measure does not reflect the increased capacity of individuals and organizations to take responsibility for the reduction of fire hazards. It is an indicator of the impact of human-caused fires and the Ministry's capacity to deliver this program.

The Ministry is focusing on developing measures that are better indicators of community commitment and capacity to take responsibility for wildfire prevention and suppression.

The overall number of fires at 370 is down substantially compared to the 10-year average of 632 for the 2007 fire season. Weather was the biggest factor in keeping fire numbers low, reflected in the high percent of human caused fires as compared to lightning (63.5 per cent human – 36 per cent lightning) and compared to the ten year average of 47 per cent and 53 per cent respectively. A wet spring and unseasonably cool weather during August kept fire danger levels to moderate for most of the province.

For additional information on The Ministry of Environment's Fire Management Program see: www.environment.gov.sk.ca

Land

This program develops and administers policies and programs for the management of Crown resource land to maintain a healthy eco-system in balance with land use. It issues permits and leases for petroleum and mineral exploration and development, wild rice production, building cabins, operating outfitting camps and peat harvesting. It implements integrated land use plans on Crown lands and responds to Treaty Land Entitlement and specific land claims involving Crown land.

Results of Key Actions

- Complete outstanding forest land-use plans that have been initiated to date. [2007-08 Planned Result]
  - ~ In progress
  - ~ A final draft of the Nisbet Land Use plan was prepared and public review initiated, as well as an independent review.
  - ~ A final draft of the Fort a la Corne Land Use Plan was completed and public review will be initiated late in the second quarter of 2008-09 and will include discussion with interest groups, stakeholders and others who have been involved in its development. This plan has already been reviewed by an independent consultant as required by The Forest Resources Management Act.

- Work co-operatively with Entitlement First Nations to help them acquire the land they are entitled to purchase pursuant to Treaty Land Entitlement Agreements. [2007-08 Planned Result]
  - ~ Completed
  - ~ Involved in review of 39 active Treaty Land Entitlement selections affecting 199,521.89 acres of Crown Resource land administered by the Ministry.
  - ~ Responded to 22 selection requests in 2007-08 involving land administered by the Ministry.
  - ~ Responded to 91 selection requests involving private land or Crown land administered by other ministries.

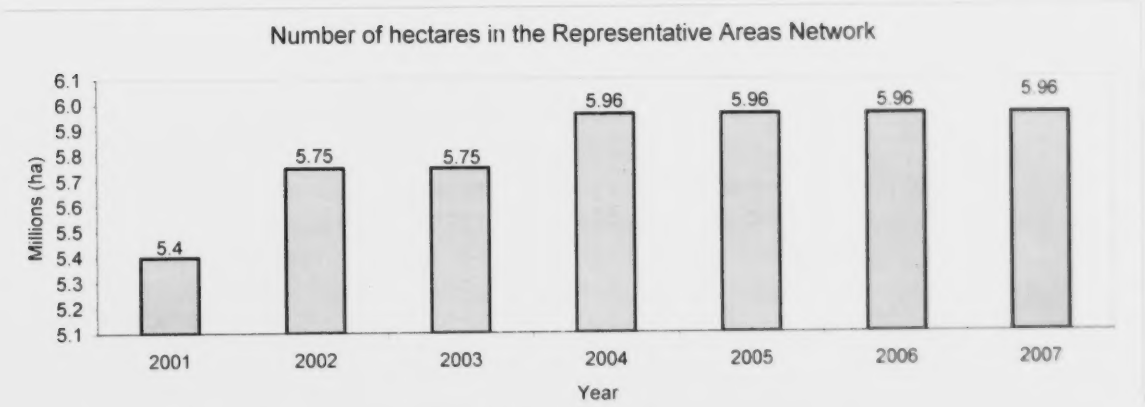
- Respond to environmental issues associated with the continued growth of the oil and natural gas industry and the increased mineral exploration associated with projected growth in the uranium and diamond industry in the Province. [2007-08 Planned Result]
  - ~ Completed
  - ~ The Ministry continues to manage the growing number of mineral exploration programs and oil/natural gas proposals that are submitted for review.
  - ~ Fiscal year total of all projects handled by the Land Protection Section – 6,055.
  - ~ Mineral industry demand for a fall 2007 workshop was very low so no workshop was delivered. Will monitor demand for possible fall 2008 workshop.

- Work to designate and manage additional protected areas that are representative of the Province's terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. [2007-08 Planned Result]
  - ~ In progress
  - ~ The final draft of the North Central Land Use Plan (now known as the Missinipe Integrated Land Use Plan), was completed and the final stages of this review process have commenced. It is currently being reviewed by Lac La Ronge Indian Band, and has been shared with the mining industry through the Saskatchewan Mining Association and Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society. This plan has already been reviewed by an independent consultant as required by The Forest Resources Management Act.

Measurement Results

Number of hectares in the Representative Areas Network

There were 5.96 million hectares of land in the Representative Areas Network (RAN) in 2007-08.



[Source: The Ministry of Environment – Fish, Wildlife and Biodiversity branch]

There has been no new representative area designations added this year, so the number reported remains the same as previous years.

Adequate amount and distribution of natural/native habitats under the RAN ensures that terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems persist into the future and serve as a benchmark against which we can monitor the effectiveness of environmental stewardship across the broader landscape.

Natural landscapes with representative fauna and flora unique to a given natural ecoregion are selected by the Ministry for designation as a representative ecological site for inclusion in the RAN. All contributing lands are counted, including those of government and non-government partners. The RAN program is striving to ensure an adequate percentage of representation of each natural ecoregion in the province.

The Ministry of Environment has direct site designation and management influence over this measure. However, the need to consult with local interests may result in a slower rate of progress. The measure of the number of hectares in the RAN is an indicator of the Province's commitment to supporting native biological diversity but does not show the current ability of the ecosystem to repair itself.

Per cent of native prairie remaining in the Prairie Ecozone

21.5 per cent
[Source: Hammermeister, Gauthier, and McGovern Report, 2001]

The Prairie Ecozone is the greatest "at risk" ecozone within the province. The amount of native prairie remaining uncultivated is a reflection of the ability of that ecosystem to sustain its native flora and fauna. The measure is an indicator of long-term health.

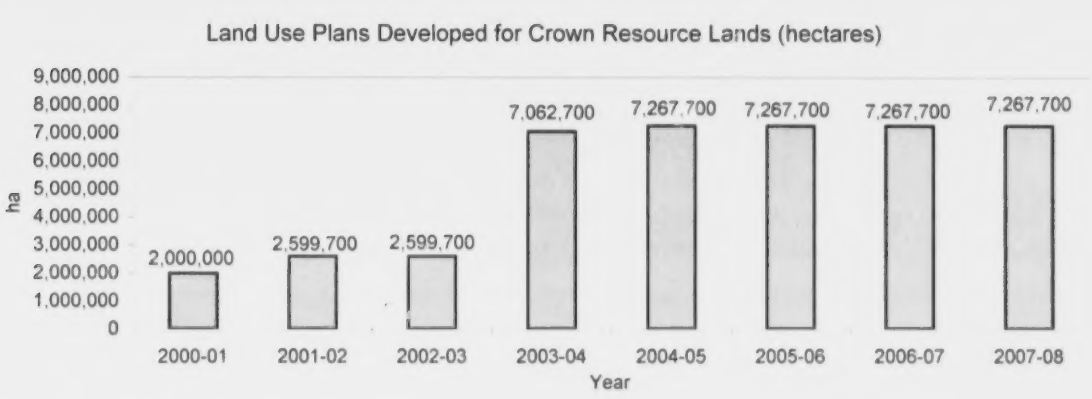
As landscape changes very slowly over time, it is expected that this number will change periodically over a number of years. We do not expect any significant year-to-year change. It is anticipated that measurement of native prairie remaining will only be taken every five to ten years.

The Ministry of Environment has some influence over this measure through programs that encourage conservation of native prairie land, such as the Prairie Conservation Action Plan, and through the Ministry's support of environmental farm planning. This includes partnership agreements that the Ministry enters into with "not-for-profit" organizations such as the Nature Conservancy, Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation and Ducks Unlimited that allow for the establishment of conservation easements and other conservation lands. The Ministry does not have direct control over decisions regarding cultivation of native land or conversion for other purposes. However, the Ministry exerts influence over land use throughout the province by its involvement in land use planning.

The Ministry of Environment will continue to improve its measures for healthy ecosystems over time by broadening the perspective into the health of our ecosystems. Better performance measures may be developed over time to better reflect the impact of human activity on the prairie landscape.

Number of hectares of Crown land under Integrated Land Use Plans (ILUP)

The number of hectares of Crown land under integrated land use plans has remained at 7,267,700 hectares. As new land use plans are completed this number will increase.



[Source: The Ministry of Environment – Land Branch]

Integrated land use planning is an ecosystem-based tool that links the environment, the community and the economy in ways that help ensure the sustainability of resources. The unification of the varied interests through the ILUP process requires time, commitment, a high level of participation and financial resources. Any influences that adversely affect any of these four key components will result in at least a degree of loss of control or influence over the measure.

Compliance and Field Services

This program provides services in support of all environmental and resource management programs. It develops proactive compliance programs in support of the ministry's compliance strategy and risk assessment. It maintains a hazardous spill emergency response unit and an enforcement call centre.

Results of Key Actions

- Implement an integrated, risk-based compliance plan for Saskatchewan Environment. [2007-08 Planned Result]
  - ~ In progress
  - ~ Compliance plan developed based on top compliance priorities for 2007-08.
  - ~ Year end report finalized and presented to Senior Management.
  - ~ Planning commenced for 2008-09 Compliance Plan.

- Fully engage the new environmental prosecutor position assigned to Saskatchewan Environment to pursue court action on non-compliance files that involve high environmental and/or resource management risk. [2007-08 Planned Result]
  - ~ Completed
  - ~ Significant progress has been made through the leadership of the dedicated environmental prosecutor in having the courts balance the level of the fines imposed in accordance with the severity of the resource abuse

- Strengthen operational funding and staff resource capacity to address the environment and resource management risks associated with increased economic development and new road construction in *northern Saskatchewan*. [2007-08 Planned Result]
  - Completed
  - The 2007-08 ministry budget reflected status quo allocations for Compliance and Field Services Branch in respect to operational funding and staff resources.
  - $2 million is being provided from 2008-2010 to support a two year Northwest Saskatchewan Sustainable Development Plan, to provide recommendations for coordinated sustainable land use in northwest Saskatchewan over the next two decades to meet the challenge of balancing economic interests with environmental integrity.

Measurement Results

Rate of non-compliance with environmental laws and regulations

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Annual Change
Provincial	99.7%	99.7%	99.7%	0
Fishers	99.8%	99.7%	99.8%	↑ 0.1%
Forestry	96.9%	---	93.7%*	not available**

*The 2007-08 compliance rate is the total forestry compliance rate for the province and is calculated differently from the 2005-06 rate. The 2007-08 rate was calculated by comparing the number of items inspected compared to what was determined to be in compliance. The 2005-6 rate was calculated by comparing the number of forest permits to the total number of forestry prosecutions.
**The 2005-06 rate and the 2007-08 rate are not comparable therefore no annual change number is reported.
[Source: Ministry of Environment]

Compliance with environmental laws and regulations is critical to ensuring that all people within the province are held to the same standards for their use and enjoyment of the province's natural resources and to ensure our resources are available for future generations and safe for us all.

Although the total number of warnings and charges varied each year, so did the population resulting in a total provincial compliance rate that remained at a constant level. The rate of compliance for fishers also remained constant. The numbers required to calculate a meaningful rate of compliance for forestry were unavailable.

The Provincial compliance rate is determined by looking at the total number of charges and warnings in comparison to the provincial population. Charges and warnings are an indication of non-compliance. The compliance rates affecting the fishery and forest industry are also highlighted because of the risk of non-compliance to these natural resources. The ministry has the ability to directly influence the amount of contact Conservation Officers have with the public through targeting its resources. The ministry has indirect influence on the actual compliance of individuals to environmental laws and regulations through education and communication initiatives.

Corporate Policy and Planning

This program provides the leadership and direction in the development of strategic policy, risk assessment, and integrated environmental monitoring. It develops and coordinates Aboriginal resource management programming. It manages the government's environmental assessment process and leads the development of the provincial Go Green Plan efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and delivers initiatives in support of a government-wide approach to improved environmental management in the province.

Results of Key Actions

- Work with the Ministry of Energy and Resources on climate change issues and to monitor federal legislative proposals that would impact Saskatchewan. [2007-08 Planned Result]
  - In progress
  - Worked with other government ministries to develop provincial emissions targets and analyze opportunities to reduce emissions in the province culminating in the release of the Saskatchewan Energy and Climate Change Plan in June 2007.
  - Supported and then led government analysis of federal proposals for the regulation of greenhouse gases and air pollutants. Ministry staff participated in intergovernmental and stakeholder discussions on the impacts of the proposals on Saskatchewan's economy and emissions. Additional analysis and discussions with the federal government, other provincial governments, and with stakeholders required as a result of additional details release in March 2008.

- Co-ordinate public review of the Great Sand Hills Regional Environmental Study, assist in the planned examination of local administration by Saskatchewan Government Relations, and develop a framework for implementation of approved study recommendations. [2007-08 Planned Result]
  - In progress
  - The environmental assessment review of the Great Sand Hills Regional Environmental Study Report and recommendations is nearing completion. The public consultation phase is anticipated to begin spring 2008 and the Minister's decisions on the recommendations to be made following completion of the public consultations.
  - The planned examination of local administration by Government Relations (Ministry of Municipal Affairs) is on hold pending the outcome of the environmental assessment review.
  - Implementation plans will be forthcoming following completion of the environmental assessment review, and Ministerial decisions on the study recommendations.

- Provide support in the development of an energy strategy for Saskatchewan. [2007-08 Planned Result]
  - Completed
  - Background papers contributed as requested.

- Develop and implement a government-wide green strategy. [2007-08 Planned Result]
  - This key action has been put on hold to redesign the program.
  - Saskatchewan's Green Strategy was completed and announced on March 21, 2007 following extensive consultation with stakeholders and the public.
  - The new government was elected with a mandate to deliver its own plan to help Saskatchewan people Go Green. The framework of the plan is contained in the 2007 Throne Speech and the Ministry of Environment is working on the details of its implementation, including reviewing ongoing green initiative programs and developing new ones.

- Increase The Ministry of Environment's ability to work with the various Tribal Councils to deal with forestry, mining and other land use issues in northern Saskatchewan. [2007-08 Planned Result]
  - Completed
  - Traditional Knowledge information gathered from British Columbia on First Nations policies, Northwest Territories on government policies and draft guidelines as well as a Saskatchewan paper on Indigenous Knowledge from the University of Saskatchewan.
  - Maintained funding to Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations/Ministry of Environment Partnership.

- Develop an Environmental Management Model as the foundation for legislative reform within the Ministry and across government. [2007-08 Planned Result]
  - ~ In progress.
  - ~ A project charter has been drafted and research has begun reviewing environmental management models used by other jurisdictions.

Measurement Results

Per cent of major issues resolved on an annual basis.
(Major issues related to the allocation and utilization of renewable natural resources within the province)

2006-07	2007-08	Change
30%	0%	↓ 30%

[Source: Ministry of Environment, Aboriginal Affairs Section]

This measure reflects the capability within the Ministry and the First Nations and Métis communities to resolve major issues facing the allocation and utilization of renewable natural resources within the province. Major issues are considered to be ones which involve senior officials from First Nations and Métis communities and other government ministries as well as our own (i.e., James Smith Cree Nation diamond mine access issue). An issue is considered to be resolved when there is a written commitment as to the steps to be taken to resolve an outstanding issue.

During 2007-08, the Ministry consulted extensively with First Nations and Métis communities to address 12 major issues and continue to make progress toward cooperative resolution. However, none of these have resulted in a written commitment to take specific actions to resolve. Cooperative work with First Nations and Métis communities in 2007-08 also includes intensive work undertaken in Land Use Planning with Lac la Ronge Indian Band on the Missinipe Plan, Clearwater First Nation and the La Loche community on the La Loche-Clearwater Regional Economic and Land use Plan, and the Athabasca Dene Nations on the Athabasca Land Use Plan. During 2007-08 the majority of pressures from First Nations and Métis communities have been tied directly to Government's legal obligations to consult. Divergent views on the application of consultation, and interests beyond Environment's mandate, have made reaching agreement through written commitments challenging. Work internal to Government, and between Government and First Nations and Métis communities, continues to evolve. As Government policy and program choices are made through the upcoming year, the ability to reach agreement and resolve issues can be expected to improve.

This measure is a good reflection of the success of the co-operative processes that are undertaken by all parties. The Ministry of Environment has direct influence on the outcome of this measure based on the resources and effort dedicated to resolution.

Provincial ranking with respect to mining industry satisfaction with environmental regulations

Ranking	2005		2006		2007	
1st	Quebec	83%	Quebec	76%	Alberta	84%
2nd	Manitoba	74%	Alberta	64%	Quebec	81%
3rd	Alberta	73%	Ontario	59%	Manitoba	80%
4th	Ontario	60%	Manitoba	59%	Nfld./Labrador	78%
5th	Nfld./Labrador	60%	Yukon	58%	New Brunswick	77%
6th	**Saskatchewan**	**59%**	**Saskatchewan**	**53%**	**Saskatchewan**	**72%**
7th	New Brunswick	49%	Nfld./Labrador	52%	Nova Scotia	64%
8th	Yukon	46%	New Brunswick	50%	Yukon	61%
9th	British Columbia	40%	NWT	45%	Ontario	57%
10th	Nova Scotia	34%	Nova Scotia	44%	NWT	45%
11th	NWT	34%	Nunavut	43%	British Columbia	42%
12th	Nunavut	28%	British Columbia	37%	Nunavut	40%

No data for Prince Edward Island.
[Source: Annual survey by Fraser Institute]

This is a qualitative measure of the opinions of the mining industry regarding Saskatchewan's environmental regulations

The Provincial ranking with respect to the mining industry satisfaction with environmental regulations indicates how Saskatchewan is doing in comparison to the rest of Canada. It gives a basis to analyse the effectiveness and acceptability of the policies and regulations that The Ministry of Environment has in place that affect the mining industry.

The Ministry of Environment has a great deal of direct influence on the mining industry through the environmental regulations required for the industry.

Fish, Wildlife and Biodiversity

This program ensures sustainable fish and wildlife populations; biological diversity and healthy ecosystems remain available for the benefit of Saskatchewan people. The Fish and Wildlife Development Fund receives a portion of the revenue from the hunting, trapping and angling licenses sold in the province to secure ecologically important fish and wildlife habitat, and promote resource education and endangered species programming.

Results of Key Actions

- Develop communication strategies and programs for staff, public, communities, industry and other government agencies to encourage stewardship and shared responsibility for sustainable development. [2007-08 Planned Result]
  - In progress
  - A variety of communication methods were used to encourage stewardship and shared responsibility for sustainable development including Conservation Corner broadcasts, media advisories, news releases and publication of reports such as Ministry's Annual Report, Anglers' Guide, Hunters' and Trappers' Guide. Changes to the Ministry of Environment's website were also undertaken.

- Begin to develop an ecological classification survey, monitoring program and management standards for the Prairie Ecozone. [2007-08 Planned Result]
  - In progress
  - Work to continue in 2008-09.

- Undertake a technical review/assessment of the effectiveness of the current Chronic Wasting Disease program in Saskatchewan. [2007-08 Planned Result]
  - In progress
  - The 2007Chronic Wasting Disease Management plan was completed and implemented.
  - Evaluation of the program will carry over to 2008-09.

- Develop a new Provincial Fisheries Management Plan. [2007-08 Planned Result]
  - In progress
  - A series of roundtable forums were held
  - A working committee with Tribal Council representatives was established.

Measurement Results

Economic impact of fishing in Saskatchewan

	2006	2007
Sport angling		
~ Resident	$132 million	$139 million
~ Non-resident	$78 million	$76 million
Commercial fishing	$4 million	$4 million*

*Commercial fishing data was not available at the time of report however, the dollar amount is not expected to change significantly so the 2006 number was used as an approximation.
[Source: Ministry of Environment – Fish, Wildlife and Biodiversity Branch]

Economic impact of hunting in Saskatchewan

	2006	2007
Resident hunting	$60 million	$63 million
Non-resident hunting	$56 million	$53 million

[Source: Ministry of Environment – Fish, Wildlife and Biodiversity Branch]

Sport fishing is an important element of nature-based tourism that contributes to the economy of the Province. The Ministry of Environment has some influence over sport fishing through fishing regulations, license fees and harvest quotas. Other factors, such as weather and fish populations also affect angler numbers. Commercial fishers contribute to the economy of the Province. The Ministry of Environment has some influence over this measure for commercial fishing through designating and assigning catch quotas for commercial fishing sites. Factors such as market conditions, weather, forest fires and job changes by fishers affect the measurement results.

Hunting is also a major component of nature-based tourism that contributes to the economy of the Province. It is also used to support the sustainability of the resource through population management. The Ministry of Environment has some influence over hunting through regulations, license fees and hunting quotas. Other factors such as weather, wildlife populations and animal disease also affect hunter numbers.

The above measures include the annual impact of the outfitted hunting and fishing industry in Saskatchewan.

2007- 08 Financial Overview

The original 2007-08 approved appropriation was $204.5 million and the revised 2007-08 appropriation was $182.7 million after adjusting for the transfer of Park Service Branch to the Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport. Total 2007-08 expenditures were $180.8 million, a variance of $1.9 million from the ministry's approved funding amount. This variance is mainly due to the below average fire activity offset by emergency relief funding for Fishing and Waldsea Lakes as well as funding for SARCAN and other ministry pressures.

The ministry's budgeted revenue was $44.49 million for 2007-08. Actual revenue recorded by the ministry was $47.34 million. This increased revenue from the initial forecast is mainly due to SARCAN, and fishing and hunting licence sales.

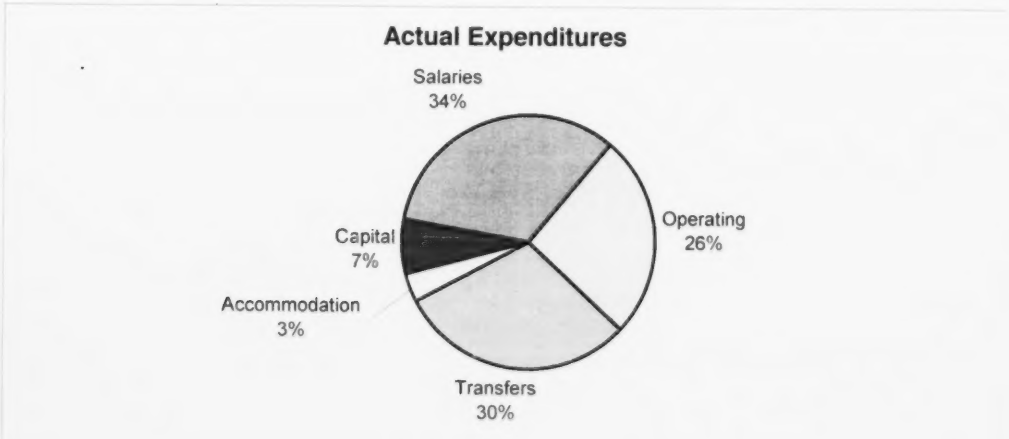
In 2007-08, the Ministry of Environment's original Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) budget was 1,337.4 and the restated FTE budget was 1,038.0. The actual FTE utilization for 2007-08 was 1,014.3.

The Ministry of Environment is responsible for the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund and the Resource Protection and Development Revolving Fund. Prior to the governmental reorganization, the ministry was also responsible for the Commercial Revolving Fund. Explanations and financial statements for the two funds within the ministry's current responsibility are found later in the report.

Expenditures

The Ministry's revised expenditure estimate was $182.7 million. Including the projected capital expenditure of $12.9 million and the associated amortization expense of $5.0 million, the Ministry's total approved expense for 2007-08 was $174.8 million.

Total 2007-08 expenses were $171.4 million, a variance of $3.4 million from the revised estimates. The significant variances are explained in the expenditure table below.



Summary of Expenditures

The following table outlines information on actual and budgeted expenditures by subvote and subprogram. Explanations are provided for all variances that are greater than 10 per cent.

Subvote	2007-08 Revised Estimates ($000s)	2007-08 Actual Expenditure ($000s)	Variance Over/(Under) ($000s)	
EN01 Executive Management	1,503	1,960	457	(1)
EN02 Central Management and Services				
Central Services	10,352	9,814	(538)	
Accommodation Services	6,656	6,166	(490)	
Subvote Total	17,008	15,980	(1,028)	
EN08 Compliance and Field Services				
Field Operations	10,724	11,444	720	
Compliance and Enforcement	4,701	3,974	(727)	(2)
Resource Protection and Development Revolving Fund - Net Financing Requirement (Statutory)	0	0		
Subvote Total	15,425	15,418	(7)	
EN09 Forest Services				
Forest Programs	8,130	7,484	(646)	
Reforestation	3,234	3,384	150	
Insect and Disease Control	1,023	956	(67)	
Geomatics	1,757	1,662	(95)	
Subvote Total	14,144	13,486	(658)	
EN10 Fire Management and Forest Protection				
Forest Fire Operations	71,130	45,238	(25,892)	(3)
Recoverable Fire Suppression Operations	1,400	653	(747)	(4)
Forest Fire Capital Projects	11,867	12,431	564	
Subvote Total	84,397	58,322	(26,075)	
EN11 Environmental Protection				
Air and Land	4,124	4,883	759	(5)
Drinking Water Quality Section	3,196	3,047	(149)	
Beverage Container Collection and Recycling System	11,043	14,136	3,093	(6)
Saskatchewan Watershed Authority - Operations	1,211	1,211	0	
Saskatchewan Watershed Authority - Water Control	796	796	0	
Saskatchewan Watershed Authority - Water Infrastructure Rehabilitation	3,178	3,178	0	
Saskatchewan Watershed Authority - Water Quality	1,999	1,999	0	
Saskatchewan Watershed Authority – Fishing and Waldsea Lakes Emergency Flood Relief	0	24,799	24,799	(7)
Subvote Total	25,547	54,049	28,502	
EN15 Land	2,731	2,513	(218)	

EN07 Fish, Wildlife and Biodiversity				
Fish and Wildlife Program	5,854	5,881	27	
Fish and Wildlife Development Fund	3,830	3,883	53	
Subvote Total	9,684	9,764	80	
EN14 Corporate Policy and Planning				
Policy and Planning	4,006	3,710	(296)	
Environmental Assessment	766	721	(45)	
Green Initiatives	7,500	4,846	(2,654)	(8)
Subvote Total	12,272	9,277	(2,995)	
Subtotal	**182,711**	**180,769**	**(1,942)**	
Capital Assets Acquisitions	(12,912)	(13,010)	(98)	
Capital Assets Amortization	5,002	3,605	(1,397)	(9)
Total Expense	**174,801**	**171,364**	**(3,437)**	

Explanation of Variances:

(1) Due to severance, entitlement payouts and relocation expenses.
(2) Due to internal reallocation of funds within the branch.
(3) Due to a below average fire season.
(4) Due to low export requests from other jurisdictions for fire teams and/or equipment.
(5) Due to one-time grant funding to subsidize Saskatchewan regional waste management authorities and an increase in funding to establish a list of contaminated sites in Saskatchewan.
(6) Due to additional payment to SARCAN to address expenses related to delivery of the Beverage Container program.
(7) Due to additional payment to Saskatchewan Watershed Authority to provide for emergency relief efforts at Fishing Lake and Waldsea Lake.
(8) Due to a number of projects that did not proceed prior to year-end such as Minister's Council on Sustainability and Climate Change, Commercial Boiler Program, and Energy Efficiency/Demand Side Management Program.
(9) Due to the fact that aircraft conversion kits were not put in to service in 2007-08 therefore no amortization could be taken on them as originally budgeted.

Capital Assets

The Ministry of Environment is responsible for a vast array of capital assets such as the fire suppression aerial fleet and infrastructure, boats and all-terrain vehicles. These assets figure strongly in the Ministry of Environment's capital plan because of the essential role they play in program delivery.

Capital assets purchased or constructed by the Ministry are stated at cost, which includes the purchase price and other acquisition costs such as installation, legal fees and design and engineering fees. The Ministry also capitalizes all direct costs relating to projects under construction and other administrative costs directly attributable to the construction or development activity. The estimated useful lives of capital assets range from five to forty years.

As of March 31, 2008, the Ministry of Environment's total capital assets have a net book value of approximately $81.2 million ($94 million in 2007). The majority of these assets are in the fire program.

During 2007-08, the ministry spent $13.01 million for capital acquisitions of which $10.3 million was directed to forest fire suppression aerial fleet renewal, $1.2 million for fire detection tower projects, $1.1 million for forest fire equipment, $286,000 for an air monitoring bus and $147,000 for new boats for Compliance and Field Services.

To date, Cabinet has approved Phase 1 and 2 of the aerial fleet renewal plan at a cost of approximately $137 million. Phase 1 concluded in 2006-07 and Phase 2 will be completed in 2010-11.

At the completion of Phase 1 and 2, the Province's aerial fire fleet will include four CV580A's that will replace the older De Havilland Tracker air tankers and additional birddog aircrafts used to guide the air tankers to their targets. Work will have completed on the conversion of four CL-215's to turbine engines, and the rehabilitation of supporting infrastructure such as fuel and retardant storage facilities, aprons, runways and tarmacs will be in progress.

Thirty-eight fire observation towers are in operation for the 2008 fire season. An additional twelve observation towers will be constructed over the next two budget years in order to complete the tower network. The Ministry of Environment has a legal responsibility/mandate to manage wildfires and the development and implementation of a comprehensive fire tower network is a fundamental building block to meet this mandate.

	Land and Buildings	Machinery and Equipment	Transportation Equipment	Office and Information Technology	Infrastructure	Total 2008
Cost:						
Opening Cost	4,934	6,892	66,044	5,809	186	83,865
Add: Acquisitions	2,023	797	10,148		42	13,010
Transfers internal - from/(to)	(68)			(11)		(79)
Less: Write downs	140	204	1	545		890
Less: Disposals						
Closing Cost (A)	6,749	7,485	76,191	5,253	228	95,906
Accumulated Amortization:						
Opening balance	404	2,216	5,569	3,513	20	11,722
Add: Annual Amortization	139	552	2,389	520	5	3,605
Transfers internal - from/(to)	(2)			(11)		(13)
Less: Disposals/Write-downs	37	144		400		581
Closing balance (B)	504	2,624	7,958	3,622	25	14,733
Net Book Value (A-B)	6,245	4,861	68,233	1,631	203	81,173

Information on Third Party Funding

(excludes all third party funding related to Parks Service)

Grant Recipient	Purpose of Grant	Amount Paid ($000s)
4R Conference	Solid Waste Association of North America conference (to promote landfill training)	5
Agriculture in the Classroom (Sask) Inc.	Green Funding - Support for sustainable communities	35
Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship	Green Funding - Support for sustainable communities	28

Grant Recipient	Purpose of Grant	Amount Paid ($000s)
Association		
Beverly - Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board	Operating grant	15
Canadian Council of Forest Ministers	Implementation of CCFM work plans	59
Canadian Council of Forest Ministers	funding for the International Forestry Partnerships Program (IFPP)	5
Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment	Annual contribution in support of CCME business plan	32
Central Regional Landfill Waste Management Authority	Regional waste management funding to support recycling services	44
Connecting as Neighbours Co-Operative Ltd	Green Funding - Support for sustainable communities	27
Cornerstone Regional Economic Development Authority	Green Funding - Support for sustainable communities	12
Craik, Town of	Green Funding - Support for sustainable communities	16
Energy Technology Access Group Ltd	Green Funding - Farm energy audit	21
Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations	Air and Energy Efficiency Conference – Oct 2007	5
First Nations University of Canada	Green Funding - Support for sustainable communities	20
Fish & Wildlife Development Fund	Operating grant – 30 per cent of revenues collected by the province on certain angling and hunting licenses issued	3,884
FPInnovations	Participation in joint silvicultural and small-scale operations programs	11
Fur Institute of Canada	Funding for trap research and development program, standard development, trapper education and public information programs	11
Help International	Green Funding - Support for sustainable communities	20
Highway 55 Waste Management Corporation	Regional waste management funding to support recycling services	61
Kyle, Town of	Regional waste management funding to support recycling services	39
Lac La Ronge Regional Waste Management Corp.	Regional waste management funding to support recycling services	57
Lower Souris River Watershed Committee Inc	Green Funding - Support for sustainable communities	13
Luther College	Green Funding - Support for sustainable communities	37
Meewasin Valley Authority	Green Funding - Support for sustainable communities	26
Moose Jaw River Watershed Stewards Inc.	Green Funding - Support for sustainable communities	15
Mossbank, Town of	Green Funding - Support for sustainable communities	40
National Forest Strategy Coalition	Contribution toward the federal/provincial agreement for National Forest Strategy implementation	15
Nature Saskatchewan	Green Funding - Support for sustainable communities	5

Grant Recipient	Purpose of Grant	Amount Paid ($000s)
Neilburg, Village of	Green Funding - Support for sustainable communities	44
Nipawin & District Regional Landfill	Regional waste management funding to support recycling services	30
North Central Saskatchewan Waste Management	Regional waste management funding to support recycling services	70
North West Warm Landfill Site & Recycling Centre	Regional waste management funding to support recycling services	41
Northern Saskatchewan Trappers Association	Partnership funding for ongoing fur management	15
Northwest Regional Waste Management Authority	Regional waste management funding to support recycling services	40
Outlook, Town of	Regional waste management funding to support recycling services	70
Parkland Regional Waste Management Authority	Regional waste management funding to support recycling services	60
Partners for the Sask River Basin	Sponsorship for Saskatchewan River Delta symposium	10
Partners for the Sask River Basin	Green Funding - Support for sustainable communities	10
Partners for the Sask River Basin	Green Funding - Envirothon	5
Pinehouse, Northern Village of	Green Funding - Support for sustainable communities	80
Porcupine Plain, town of	Regional waste management funding to support recycling services	37
Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute	Green Funding - Farm energy audit	39
Prairie Ecovillage Development Corporation	Green Funding - Support for sustainable communities	35
Product Care Association	Green Funding - Household hazardous waste	200
Raum Energy Inc.	Green Funding - Green technology commercialization grants	74
Red Coat Waste Resource Authority Corporation	Regional waste management funding to support recycling services	70
Regina Car Share Co-Operative	Green Funding - Support for sustainable communities	10
Regina Ecoliving Inc	Green Funding - Support for sustainable communities	5
Regina Farmer's Market Co-Operative Association	Green Funding - Support for sustainable communities	15
Regina Folk Festival	Green Funding - Support for sustainable communities	5
Regina, City of	Green Funding - Support for sustainable communities	13
Regional Authority of Carleton Trail	Regional waste management funding to support recycling services	70
Roadmap 2020 Project	Green Funding - Support for sustainable communities	25
Royal Saskatchewan Museum Associates	Green Funding - Support for sustainable communities	39
Saskatchewan Association of Conservation Officers	Support professional development of conservation officers	7
Saskatchewan Association of Northern Communities	Green Funding - Feasibility assessment for regional waste management in northern Saskatchewan	50

Grant Recipient	Purpose of Grant	Amount Paid ($000s)
Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres	Beverage container collection and recycling program	14,136
Saskatchewan Burrowing Owl Interpretive Centre	Green Funding - Support for sustainable communities	35
Saskatchewan Co-operative Fisheries Limited	Operating grant	50
Saskatchewan Council for International Co-operations	Green Funding - Support for sustainable communities	15
Saskatchewan Eco-Network Inc.	Operating grant	30
Saskatchewan Eco-Network Inc.	Green Funding - Support for sustainable communities	15
Saskatchewan Forest Centre	Green Funding - Support for sustainable communities	50
Saskatchewan Forestry Association	Green Funding - Support for sustainable communities	12
Saskatchewan Research Council	Range site classification for forest grazing in Saskatchewan	10
Saskatchewan Research Council	Green Funding - Farm energy audit	125
Saskatchewan Science Centre Inc.	Green Funding - Support for sustainable communities	20
Saskatchewan Sheep Development Board	Funding for Guard Dog Subsidy Program	5
Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association	Green Funding - Support for sustainable communities	45
Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council Inc.	Green Funding - Support for sustainable communities	16
Saskatchewan Water Appeal Board	Legislative – Operational grant	43
Saskatchewan Water Corp	Echo Regional Wastewater System Concept study	30
Saskatchewan Watershed Authority	Financial support to SWA that has a mandate to manage water supplies and protect source water quality	7,184
Saskatchewan Watershed Authority	Financial support for Fishing and Waldsea Lakes	24,799
Saskatchewan Watershed Authority	Range health assessments on provincial forest grazing permit areas	40
Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation	Funding for annual convention	5
SaskEnergy Incorporated	Green Funding - Energy Efficiency Program for New Housing	950
SaskEnergy Incorporated	Green Funding - Energy Efficiency Retrofit Support: Energuide	350
Saskatoon Regional Waste Management Association	Regional waste management funding to support recycling services	43
South East Saskatchewan Airshed Association	Green Funding – Provincial air quality monitoring	20
South Saskatchewan River Watershed Stewards	Green Funding - Support for sustainable communities	12
Sun Ridge Group	Green Funding - Farm energy audit	46
Sun Ridge Residential Inc.	Green Funding - Farm energy audit	169
System Ecotechnologies	Green Funding - Green Technology Commercialization grants	134
Tigerlilly Education Inc.	Green Funding - Support for sustainable communities	30
Touchwood Hills Regional Landfill Inc.	Regional waste management funding to support recycling services	33

Grant Recipient	Purpose of Grant	Amount Paid ($000s)
University of Manitoba	Dutch elm disease research	10
University of Regina	Green Funding - Prairie Adaptation Research Centre	500
University of Regina	Green Funding - Support for sustainable communities	25
University of Regina	Green Funding - Feasibility study for a regional water system	75
University of Regina	Green Funding - Eligibility gap analysis	20
University of Saskatchewan	Support the Canadian Co-operative Wildlife Health Centre	41
University of Saskatchewan	Research on factors affecting the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease	20
University of Saskatchewan	Green Funding - Support for sustainable communities	30
West Yellowhead Waste Resources Authority Inc.	Regional waste management funding to support recycling services	70
Yellowhead Regional Economic Development Authority	Green Funding - Support for sustainable communities	11
Other (individual grants less than $4,000)		16
TOTAL GRANTS 2007-08 – VOTE 026		**54,997**

Revenues

The majority of the revenue collected by the Ministry of Environment relates to environmental handling charges, hunting and angling license fees, forestry fees and dues and receipt from other governments for recoverable fire suppression costs. These revenues are collected on behalf of Government and all revenue collected is deposited into the General Revenue Fund.

The ministry's budgeted revenue for 2007-08 was $44.488 million; actual revenue recorded was $47.344 million. This variance is largely due to higher than anticipated revenues from SARCAN.

Description of Revenue	2007-08 Budget ($000s)	2007-08 Actual ($000s)	Variance ($000s)	
Own-Source Revenue				
Other Licenses and Permits	17,552	16,354	(1,198)	
Sales, Services and Service Fees	15,248	19,614	4,366	(1)
Interest, Premiums, Discount and Exchange	40	40	0	
Transfers from Other Governments	1,400	1,177	(223)	(2)
Other Revenue	5,855	6,402	547	
Transfers from the Federal Government	4,393	3,757	(636)	(3)
Transfers from Government Entities	0	0		
Total Revenue Items	**44,488**	**47,344**	**2,856**	

Variance Explanations

(1) SARCAN – Beverage product sales were higher than anticipated which resulted in the actual amount of environmental handling charge (EHC) revenue collected exceeding the budgeted amount.

(2) The change from budget is due to fewer than anticipated recoverable incidents during the 2007 forest fire season.

(3) In 2007-08 the ministry did not undertake activities that contribute to the MOU with Natural Resources Canada for work relating to National Forest Inventory project. In addition, the 2007-2008 Primrose billings were reduced due to low fire activity.

Special Funds

Fish and Wildlife Development Fund

The Fish and Wildlife Development Fund (FWDF) is a special purpose fund used by the ministry to support habitat protection and management throughout the province. Revenues are transferred to the FWDF based on an amount equivalent to 30 per cent of habitat license certificates and certain hunting, trapping and fishing license fees collected by the province. Basic expenditures relate to habitat protection through the purchase of habitat and management and enhancement of habitat.

The following table outlines summary information on budgeted and unaudited results for 2007-08 relating to the operations of the fund.

Audited financial statements will be available at www.gov.sk.ca/finance under the publications section of their website.

Fish and Wildlife Development Fund for the period ended March 31, 2008
(based on unaudited figures)

	Budget ($000s)	Actual ($000s)	Variance ($000s)	
Revenue	3,969	4,230	261	
Expenses:				
Fish Enhancement Projects	1,544	1,698	154	(1)
Wildlife Habitat Projects	2,110	1,696	(414)	(2)
Grant in Lieu of Taxes	315	339	24	
Rafferty/Alameda projects	0	0	0	
Invasive Alien Species	0	455	455	(3)
Total Expenses	3,969	4,188	219	
Excess of Revenues over Expenses	**0**	**42**	**42**	

Explanation of Variances
(1) Salary expense for Fish Enhancement Projects was higher than budget due to Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) increases.
(2) Contractual services were lower than originally budgeted because the cost of all aerial surveys was covered in the Ministry of Environment budget. As well, Grants for Habitat Securement, easements and purchases, were significantly lower due to delays in renewal of DUC and NCC agreements.
(3) At the end of 2006-07 the FWDF received a grant for the Invasive Alien Species program however due to the timing of the receipt, the 2007-08 expenditures associated with this grant were not included in the original budget amount.

Revolving Funds

Resource Protection and Development Revolving Fund

The Resource Protection and Development Revolving Fund (RPDRF) was a funding mechanism used by the ministry for cost allocation of operating expenditures that apply to radio communications within the ministry. Resource users were charged a fee based on the cost of providing the goods and services. The fund was wound up in 2007-08; however, the Radio Communications program continues to operate within the Fire Management and Forest Protection branch of the ministry.

The following table outlines summary information on budgeted and unaudited results for 2007-08 relating to the operation of the fund.

Audited financial statements will be available at www.gov.sk.ca/finance under the publications section of their website.

Resource Protection and Development Revolving Fund for the period ended March 31, 2008
(based on unaudited figures)

	Budget ($000s)	Actual ($000s)	Variance ($000s)
Revenue	0	0	0
Expenses:			
Salaries	0	0	0
Operating Expenses	0	0	0
Total Expenses	0	0	0
Net Profit / (Loss)	**0**	**0**	**0**

Where to Obtain Additional Information

The Ministry of Environment welcomes your comments and questions.

We can be contacted by email: inquiry@serm.gov.sk.ca
phone: Laurel Welsh at (306) 787-2484
or The Ministry of Environment's Inquiry Centre, Prince Albert at (306) 953-3750
toll free in Saskatchewan 1-800-567-4224
or mail: 3211 Albert Street, REGINA SK S4S 5W6

Visit our website at www.environment.gov.sk.ca

Appendix A – Organizational Chart

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
EXECUTIVE DETAILS

MINISTER
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

DEPUTY MINISTER
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE DEPUTY MINISTER
As a member of the Executive, serves as primary liaison on all issues between the Minister's staff and the department. The EA coordinates various department committees, analyzes and makes recommendations on strategic, policy and program issues for the Deputy Minister

COMMUNICATION SERVICES
Director
Coordinates strategic communications

LANDS & FORESTS DIVISION
Associate Deputy Minister
Delivers sustainable forest management, risk-based wildfire management and resource crown land management to maintain and protect crown assets and manage the flow of public benefits. Provides geomatics services and access to spatial information to department, government and external clients.

- **Fire Management & Forest Protection**
  Provides and coordinates forest fire management activities and policies
- **Forest Service**
  Develops and manages integrated sustainable forest resource management programs and services
- **Geomatics**
  Coordinates the management and development of the department's information databases and technology
- **Lands**
  Coordinates, administers and develops land use planning initiatives, activities and dispositions, resource land management policies and the department's Treaty Land Entitlement Program

CONSERVATION DIVISOIN
Assistant Deputy Minister
Develops and delivers fish and wildlife, parks and compliance programs to ensure biological diversity and ecosystem health are sustained and accessible for the recreational, social and economic well-being of Saskatchewan people

- **Compliance & Field Services**
  Provides coordination of conservation, environmental and resource management compliance and related field activities.
- **Fish & Wildlife**
  Develops and manages integrated fish, wildlife and ecosystem management program

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DIVISION
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental assessment and review, and environmental research, monitoring and reporting. Delivers environmental protection programs related to air quality, water and wastewater, waste management, industrial operations, mining and milling operations, hazardous substances, contaminated sites and manages the Beverage Container Collection and Recycling System (SARCAN)

- **Aboriginal Affairs & Stakeholder Engagement**
  Responsible for coordinating the department's Aboriginal programming to meet its legal obligations and the interests of Aboriginal people
- **Corporate Policy & Planning**
  Assistant Deputy Minister
  Provides corporate policy development and coordination and strategic planning
- **Environmental Assessment**
  Manages the Government of Saskatchewan's environmental assessment program with the support of an interdepartmental panel of representatives
- **Environmental Protection**
  Ensures province's environmental objectives are met. Sets standards and monitors compliance with environmental regulations, inspects and regulates high risk activities

Finance & Administration
Executive Director
Provides corporate direction on financial policy, internal audit, and develops short and long-term financial plans. Provides services related to multi-year budget, payrolls, benefits, revenues, space, inventory, purchasing and vehicles. Provides process support for expenditure, revenue and payroll processing and implements administrative effectiveness and efficiency improvements.

Appendix B - Administered Legislation

The Ministry derives its mandate, responsibilities and authority from a number of Acts and regulations under those Acts.

Acts currently assigned to the Minister of Environment are:

- The Clean Air Act protects Saskatchewan's air quality by regulating emissions that originate in the province.
- The Conservation Easements Act encourages private landowners, conservation organizations and governments to protect ecologically sensitive lands and natural areas through voluntary agreements.
- The Ecological Reserves Act protects unique, natural ecosystems and landscape features through the designation of Crown land as ecological reserves.
- The Environmental Assessment Act provides a practical means to ensure that development proceeds with adequate environmental safeguards and in a manner broadly understood by and acceptable to the public through the integrated assessment of environmental impact.
- The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2002 protects the air, land and water resources of the Province through regulating and controlling potentially harmful activities and substances.
- The Fisheries Act (Saskatchewan), 1994 enables sustainable management of fisheries resources by affirming provincial ownership of fish, creating a provincial licensing system, and regulating allocation of fish resources, fish marketing, aquaculture, sport fishing and commercial fishing.
- The Forestry Professions Act establishes the Association of Saskatchewan Forestry Professionals, an organization independent of government and industry, responsible for ensuring that its members maintain required standards for competency and conduct.
- The Forest Resources Management Act allows the Ministry to implement a framework for sustainable management of Saskatchewan's forest resources.
- The Litter Control Act makes littering an offence and provides for the establishment and administration of a deposit refund system for various beverage containers.
- The Natural Resources Act (subject to OC 208/96) establishes the Province's mandate to manage, protect, conserve and develop renewable resources in a sustainable manner.
- The Prairie and Forest Fires Act, 1982 provides for the prevention, detection and suppression of prairie and forest fires originating in provincial forests, parks and on unoccupied Crown lands. It also governs compensation for conscripted fire fighters and authorizes establishment and regulation of fire bans and burning permit areas.
- The Provincial Lands Act creates authority for the management and transfer of Crown lands.
- The Sale or Lease of Certain Lands Act gives Cabinet the ability to place conditions on the transfer or lease of lands listed in a schedule to this Act.

- The State of the Environment Report Act provides for public accountability in reporting of environmental conditions and activities through the preparation and release of a State of the Environment Report every two years.

- The Water Appeal Board Act establishes the Water Appeal Board and enables the board to hear appeals regarding water, sewage and drainage issues.

- The Wildlife Act, 1998 provides for the management, conservation and protection of wildlife resources through the issuance and revocation of licences, the prosecution of wildlife offences and the establishment of annual hunting seasons.

- The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act provides for the management, conservation and protection of wildlife lands and wildlife by preventing the sale and alteration of certain Crown lands.

Acts currently assigned to the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Watershed Authority are:

- The Conservation and Development Act

- The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Act

- The Water Power Act

- The Watershed Associations Act

Appendix C - Key Partners and Stakeholders

The organizations listed below are considered The Ministry of Environment's primary partners/stakeholders because they:

- are provincial in scope,
- have a significant impact on the environment or natural resources,
- are involved in major current issues, or maintain a long-term relationship with the Ministry.

- Agency Chiefs Tribal Council
- Agrium Inc.
- AREVA Resources Canada Inc.
- Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan
- Association of Regional Waste Management Authorities of Saskatchewan
- Athabasca Potash Inc.
- Battlefords Tribal Council
- BHP Billiton
- Cameco Corporation
- Canadian Association of Geophysical Contractors
- Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers
- Canadian Bankers Association
- Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- Canadian Forest Service
- Canadian Heritage River System Board
- Canadian Institute of Forestry
- Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre
- Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
- Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
- Canadian Petroleum Products Institute
- Canadian Plains Research Center
- Canoe Saskatchewan
- Claude Resources Inc.
- Climate Change Saskatchewan
- Communities of Tomorrow
- Consulting Engineers of Saskatchewan
- Consumer's Co-operative Refineries Ltd.
- Council of Saskatchewan Forest Industries
- Crop Life Canada
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- Domtar Corp.
- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Enbridge Inc.
- Environment Canada
- Envirotec Services Inc.
- Federal/Provincial Park Council
- Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations
- File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council
- First Nations University of Canada
- FPInnovations-Feric
- Golden Band Resources Inc.
- Green Lake Métis Wood Products Ltd.
- Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting
- Husky Oil
- IMC Kalium Canada Ltd.
- Independent Forest Operators of Saskatchewan
- Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
- Interior West Fire Council
- IPSCO Saskatchewan
- Kitsaki Management Limited Partnership
- L & M Wood Products Ltd.
- Meadow Lake Mechanical Pulp
- Meadow Lake Tribal Council
- MeeToos Forest Products Ltd.
- Métis Nation - Saskatchewan (MNS) and MNS Regions
- Mistik Management Ltd.
- Mosaic Co.
- Natural Resources Canada
- Nature Conservancy of Canada
- Nature Saskatchewan
- New North
- NorSask Forest Products Ltd.
- Northern Saskatchewan Trappers Association
- Northwest Communities Wood Products Ltd.
- North West Municipalities Association
- Northwest Wildland Fire Compact
- Operator's Certification Board
- Parks Canada
- Partners for the Saskatchewan River Basin
- Potash Corp. of Saskatchewan
- Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration
- Prairie Mines and Royalty Ltd.
- Prince Albert Grand Council
- Product Care Association (Saskatchewan Paint Stewardship Program)
- Saskatchewan Archaeological Society

- Saskatchewan Association of Firearm Education
- Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres
- Saskatchewan Association of Resource Recovery Corporation
- Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities
- Saskatchewan Bowhunters Association
- Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce
- Saskatchewan Cooperative Fisheries Ltd.
- Saskatchewan Dutch Elm Disease Association
- Saskatchewan Eco Network
- Saskatchewan Environmental Industry and Managers Association
- Saskatchewan Environmental Society
- Saskatchewan Forestry Association
- Saskatchewan Forest Centre
- Saskatchewan Government and General Employees Union
- Saskatchewan Government Growth Fund Management Corporation
- Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST)
- Saskatchewan Minerals Inc.
- Saskatchewan Mining Association
- Saskatchewan Nature and Ecotourism Association
- Saskatchewan Outfitters Association
- Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association
- Saskatchewan Potash Producers Association
- Saskatchewan Public Works Association
- Saskatchewan Research Council
- Saskatchewan Scrap Tire Corporation
- Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association
- Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association
- Saskatchewan Trappers Association
- Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association
- Saskatchewan Waste Electronic Equipment Program
- Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council
- Saskatchewan Water Appeal Board
- Saskatchewan Water and Wastewater Association
- Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
- Saskatchewan Wild Rice Council
- Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation
- Saskatoon Tribal Council
- SaskEnergy
- Saskferco Products Inc.
- SaskPower
- SaskTel
- SASKTIP Inc.
- SaskWater
- Shore Gold Inc.
- Small Explorers and Producers Association of Canada
- Southeast Saskatchewan Airshed Association
- Sterling Pulp Chemicals
- Tolko Industries Ltd./Meadow Lake OSB
- Touchwood Agency Tribal Council
- Tourism Saskatchewan
- TransCanada Corp.
- University of Regina
- University of Saskatchewan
- Viterra Inc.
- Wascana Centre Authority
- Weyerhaeuser Canada Ltd., Saskatchewan Division
- World Wildlife Fund
- Yorkton Tribal Council

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